

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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## EUROPEAN DIFFICULTIES.

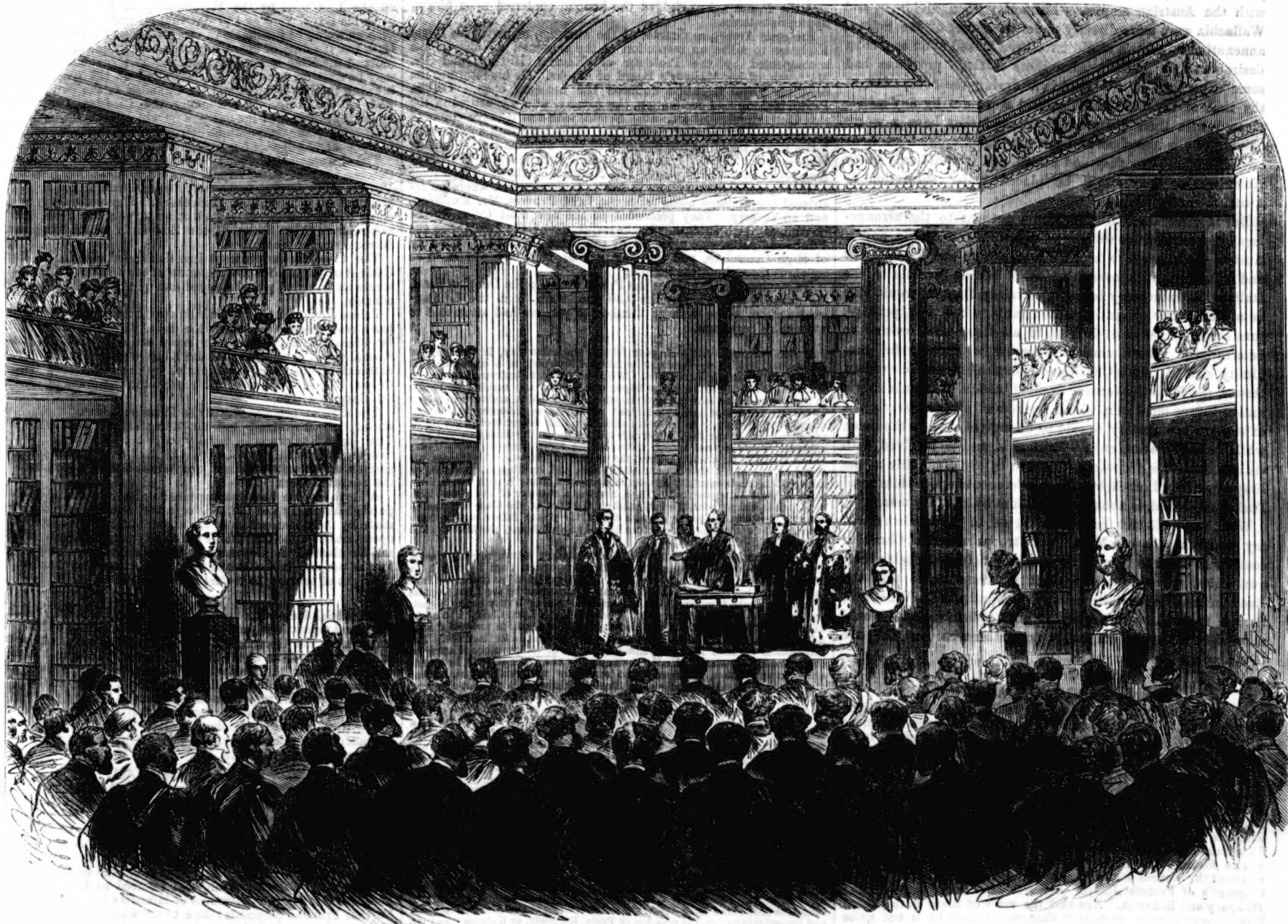
It is curious to notice the moral anarchy that prevails just now in the political world. Formerly there were certain received principles, or at least rules, in connection with European politics. Every country was supposed to be bound by its Government, and every Government by treaties made with other Governments. This may have been wrong, but, at least, it was clear and intelligible. Now the so-called "doctrine of nationalities" is preached; and, as no one knows precisely what it means or how it can be applied, the intermixture of this new principle with the old one leads to all sorts of confusion. Schleswig and Holstein, or "Schleswig-Holstein" as the believers in the "indissoluble union" of the two duchies say—a belief, by-the-way, which must have been rudely shaken when their German liberators actually separated them—belonged by a treaty renewed over and over again to Denmark. Now that Denmark has been despoiled of these provinces, no one can say what ought to be done with them; but as Prussia evidently wants them above all things, and claims them most persistently, and has shown herself ready to fight rather than allow the Sovereign in whose name they were originally seized to rule over them, there seems to be a general opinion that it would be a good thing to let Prussia have them. If the "doctrine of nationalities" were acted upon, and



HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

the population of the duchies consulted, the national choice would, no doubt, fall upon the Duke of Augustenburg. But that would not suit Prussia, and, as Prussia has taken up a very determined attitude on the Schleswig-Holstein question, it is thought best to let her have her own way.

If Prussia *will* have Holstein as well as Schleswig, which she already holds, it is considered only fair that Austria should be indemnified for the loss of that province—though by her own showing it does not belong to her. It is proposed, then, that by way of compensation Austria shall receive from Prussia part or all of Prussian Silesia, which, as everyone knows, was seized by Frederick the Great in time of peace, and ceded to him at the end of the Seven Years' War. Prussia, however, has not had Silesia upwards of a hundred years for nothing. She has established a University at Breslau which has become celebrated. She has accustomed the inhabitants to a system of administration which, if somewhat pedantic and punctilious, is at least not disgraced by dishonesty. She has given them law-courts in which justice is rendered in a speedy, impartial, and inexpensive manner; Parliamentary institutions, which, if they sometimes come to a standstill, at least worked for many years very satisfactorily; and she has taxed them but lightly. If Prussia were to hand over her Silesian subjects to Austria they would lose



PRINCE ALFRED RECEIVING THE DEGREE OF LL.D. AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.



many of these advantages. Whatever the Prussian Government may be just now, Prussia for more than a generation has been classed with constitutional countries; and it may be fairly said that every Prussian under the age of fifty has grown up under the shadow of liberal, if not positively free, institutions. Naturally, then, there are no Prussians in any part of the monarchy who desire—whatever their other wishes may be—to become Austrians. Indeed, the city of Breslau, in Silesia, has hitherto shown itself the most anti-Austrian part of the Prussian monarchy; and the Breslau town council has gone so far as to petition the Government to declare war against Austria—stipulating, however, at the same time, that the Prussian Constitution shall be fully and faithfully observed.

It would probably not be quite to the taste of the Schleswig-Holsteiners to be absorbed into Prussia; though, probably, in the end, that is the best fate that could befall them. But it is quite certain that the inhabitants of Prussian Silesia would not willingly become Austrians; and to propose to hand them over to the Kaiser without consulting them on the subject is one of the strangest pieces of liberalism yet heard of in connection with the projected congress, which is, nevertheless, looked upon as an eminently liberal and progressive scheme.

However, those politicians who undertake to arrange Prussian and Austrian affairs without consulting Prussia and Austria on the subject, would, if the exchange of Holstein against Silesia could be effected, have still only settled the German dispute. The quarrel between Austria and Italy would still remain, and it would be necessary to find some solution of the Venetian difficulty.

That, however, could be very soon arranged. First of all, Austria must give up Venetia to Italy—principally, it would seem, because Italy insists on having it and will take no refusal, just as Prussia will absolutely take no refusal in the matter of Holstein. It is not recommended, however, that that inevitable cession should be made without compensation. Everything is to be done on the most equitable principles; and, if Austria will only give up Venetia with a good grace, it is proposed that she should be rewarded with the gift of those restless provinces, Moldavia and Wallachia. The only reason for giving up Moldavia and Wallachia (or "Roumania," as Moldavians and Wallachians now agree in calling the united principalities) to Austria is, that Austria must be recompensed for losing Venetia, and that Roumania is the only disposable territory, or the only territory thought to be disposable, that can be found lying about anywhere near Austria.

On the whole, we cannot say that we should consider it a misfortune for Austria to be enriched at the expense of Turkey. But Roumania, which has been gradually freeing itself from the Turkish yoke, aspires to become an independent State, and has no wish whatever to be incorporated with the Austrian empire. Formerly, when Moldavia and Wallachia were more directly under the power of the Sultan, annexation to Austria would have been looked upon as a most desirable thing; but the inhabitants of those provinces had some experience of the Austrians during the occupation at the time of the Crimean War, and were not by any means pleased with their visitors. At present they have a worse opinion of the Austrians and a much higher opinion of their own destinies than they had before, and it would only be by violence that they could be placed under subjection to Austrian government.

But if Prussia and Austria would consent to the arrangement proposed on the subject of Holstein and Silesia, and if Austria would agree to take Roumania from the Roumanians and from Turkey, in consideration of ceding Venetia to the Italians (extraordinary bargain, certainly!), there would still be a little affair to settle in Roumania, which will, perhaps, turn out to be the most difficult of all those now waiting to be arranged. The Roumanians having, with wonderful unanimity, elected Prince Charles of Hohenzollern to their vacant throne, the Paris Conference decided that in Roumania only a native Prince must rule, which, by reason of the party spirit existing in the country, is said to be impossible. In the mean while Prince Charles enters Roumania, and is received with enthusiasm. He proposes to govern by the same title as the Emperor of the French, but the Conference is against him; and Turkey, it is said, is about to expel him by military means.

What the believers in the doctrine of nationalities will say when hordes of Mussulman troops enter a Christian country in order to prevent its inhabitants from choosing their own ruler, we cannot say; but it seems to us that the Roumanians deserve quite as much sympathy as the Venetians, though from those numerous English politicians who would maintain the Turkish empire, at no matter what cost, they are of course not likely to get it.

#### THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

AMONGST those proverbially uneasy heads which have the misfortune to be fitted with crowns, surely that of Francis Joseph of Austria must find little rest, even though the proposition for a great European congress has been temporarily accepted, and preparations are being made in Paris for the pacification of Europe by mutual concessions. It is certain, however, that the conduct of the unscrupulous Bismarck and the dogged obstinacy of his Royal master have united to procure an amount of sympathy with the Austrian Government which it has never before enjoyed, and which even the uncertain position of Venetia does not altogether cancel. In a former Number, where we gave rather full particulars of the States forming the Zollverein, we gave a sketch of the principal rulers of the various countries of that federation, including a short biography of Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary and Bohemia. Age and the cares of State have altered him somewhat even since that time, and, though he is not quite thirty-six years old—having been born in August, 1830—the nephew of Ferdinand I. looks like a man of middle age. This is scarcely to be wondered at, when we remember that he was of age and came to

the throne at eighteen; and, truth to tell, his early experience has marked his face with a certain nobility and an expression of vigorous power and intellect which was little expected from its youthful lineaments.

#### PRINCE ALFRED AT EDINBURGH.

ON Saturday afternoon last the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art was opened by his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, in presence of a large and enthusiastic assemblage. The opportunity was taken by the magistrates and council to present his Royal Highness with the freedom of the city, and the Senatus Academicus of the University made arrangements to confer upon him the honorary degree of LL.D.

The Prince arrived at the Lothian-road station by the mail train due from London at 7.10 a.m., and he was received by the Lord Provost and Professor Lyon Playfair. The Prince drove to the Douglas Hotel, where during the morning he was visited by the Lord Provost and other gentlemen. At one o'clock the Prince visited the Lord Provost (Mr. Wm. Chambers), at his residence in Chester-street, where he partook of luncheon along with a distinguished company.

An escort of the 4th Hussars accompanied the Prince to the University, where he arrived about half past two. Princes-street was lined by the 4th Hussars and the North and South Bridges by the 72nd Highlanders. The streets were crowded with spectators, and from many of the windows flags were suspended. In front of the Register House and at the new Post Office thousands were assembled, and the Prince was enthusiastically cheered as he passed. A state carriage with liveried equipage, drawn by four horses and having the Royal arms emblazoned on the panels, was occupied by his Royal Highness, the Lord Provost, the Lord Justice General, and the Hon. Mr. Yorke. On arriving at the college gate his Royal Highness was received with due etiquette by the Principal of the University (Sir David Brewster), attended by the janitor bearing the silver mace. The Prince, who wore the Highland costume of the Royal Stuart tartan, was attended right and left by the Lord Provost and the Principal, followed by other gentlemen, to the college library. The members of the Senatus Academicus, in their robes and distinctive hood, received the Prince at the entrance to the library and accompanied him to the hall. In the quadrangle and on the balconies of the University a large number of ladies and gentlemen were assembled, and loudly applauded the Prince. The University volunteers, who were stationed in the quadrangle, presented arms as the Prince passed.

In the library, after prayer by Dr. Lee, Professor Muirhead read an address on behalf of the Senatus Academicus; and, after the degree had been conferred, his Royal Highness spoke as follows:—

Mr. Principal and Professors.—It is with pride and pleasure that I accept the honorary degree graciously conferred upon me by this University, with which I was already connected by many intimate and cherished associations. Of these associations some are derived from recollections of the circumstances to which you have adverted that my lamented father held and valued the degree with which you have to-day been pleased to honour me; others are the result of my own experience of the University, and the many happy and, I trust, profitable days which I spent whilst studying within its walls. To the expression of these personal feelings I must add the gratification with which I find the University so intimately connected with the Industrial Museum which we are about to open, by the contribution of its collections of natural history to that institution. I will only observe, in conclusion, that I trust I may have frequent opportunities of evincing my interest in this seat of learning and of cultivating the acquaintance of the eminent men who preside over it.

The Prince then subscribed the list of graduates, after which his Royal Highness left to open the museum, which communicates with the University by a bridge thrown over West College-street. He was met by the Marchmont and Albany Heralds at the bridge, and preceded by the Queen's Trumpeters for Scotland (who played a slow march) to the dais. His Royal Highness took a position in the centre. The Rev. Dr. Lee, at the request of the Prince, opened the proceedings with prayer. The Lord Provost then requested the City Clerk to read to his Royal Highness the address agreed upon by the Corporation; after which the Lord Provost presented his Royal Highness with the freedom of the city in a crimson velvet case, and the Prince acknowledged the honour conferred upon him in appropriate terms.

Professor Archer, as director of the museum, requested his Royal Highness to make an inspection of the museum, in which he was accompanied by the Professor of Natural History, and Mr. Matheson, of her Majesty's Board of Works. On his return to the dais, his Royal Highness declared the museum open. On the Prince making this declaration, the Albany, who was attired in the rich Court costume of a Scottish herald, with the massive collar of SS and the gold badge of St. Andrew, announced with a loud voice, "His Royal Highness has now opened this museum to the public. God save the Queen." The trumpeters then gave a flourish of trumpets, and the band played the National Anthem. The Prince retired by the temporary exit in North College-street, where he re-entered the carriage along with the Lord Provost, Mr. Matheson, and an equestrian. They proceeded to the new Post Office by the South and North Bridges. In the inspection of the Post Office the Prince and party were preceded by the office-bearers of the Society of High Constables, and the members of that body officiated as stewards throughout the building.

On leaving the Post Office the Prince drove to the Douglas Hotel. He returned to London by the 9.30 p.m. train, from the Lothian-road station, where a large number of persons had assembled to witness his departure.

A DETERMINED ACT.—A poor fellow, the other day, in the south of France, was making up fagots, or bundles of firewood, in a copse near his cottage. His name was Victor Piet. While pulling a twig from the fagot he felt himself sharply bitten in the finger and saw an asp making its escape at the moment. The man pursued the snake and killed it, and then it flashed across his mind that the bite he had received was poisonous and would quickly end his days. So he took a resolution and determined to get rid of the first joint of the first finger of his right hand, which was the part affected. There was not exactly time to send for a surgeon, so the brave fellow thought he would perform the operation himself. He placed his finger on one of his sabots, or wooden shoes, and, opening his penknife, he arranged the blade carefully across the first joint, fixing it with two or three chips of wood in its position. Then, making a hammer of the other sabot, he struck it sharply with the left hand on the back of the blade and cleanly severed the joint. Binding up the finger, the young fellow went quietly home, and laid upon the table before his astonished family the dead asp and the joint of his finger.

LORD LYON KING AT ARMS.—A Parliamentary return recently issued shows that in the last ten years the emoluments of the Lord Lyon and his official staff have averaged £1990 a year. The Lord Lyon has more than half for his share, but the whole of the duties are performed by the Lyon Depute, a gentleman who is generally either an Advocate or Writer to the Signet, and who receives about £88 a year. There is also a Lyon Clerk, who again has a Lyon Clerk Depute, the two dividing between them, in unequal shares, £356 a year. The heralds and pursuivants have smaller incomes. The functions of the Lord Lyon give him cognisance of all questions relating to coat-armour in Scotland. Under the authority of an Act of 1672, he grants arms, on application, to persons who can show no hereditary right, but are judged to occupy socially a position entitling them to coat-armour; he being bound, in so doing, not to infringe on the armorial rights of others. He grants arms in conformity to stipulations in entails or settlements, imposing on heirs the condition of assuming a certain name and arms. When a change of surname is connected with a change of arms, it is the practice for the Lord Lyon to grant an official recognition of the new surname along with the patent of arms, the certificate of which recognition is held to serve the same purpose in the case of a Scotchman as the Royal licence does in the case of an Englishman, and is often required by the War Office and Admiralty from officers in the Army and Navy. The Lord Lyon is empowered and enjoined by Acts of 1592 and 1672 to enforce the prohibitions of those Acts against the illegal assumption of coat-armour. Prosecutions of this description were frequent last century; in later times an intimation to the party complained of has generally been found to lead to the disuse of the arms without further proceedings. The Lord Lyon also receives, on application, evidence of pedigrees, and records it for preservation. He decides questions of precedence. He appoints and controls messengers at armies, who execute the process of the supreme court. Fees are, of course, payable on the exercise of the various functions of the Lord Lyon—on registration of arms or pedigrees, on researches and investigations; on the creation of Peers, Baronets, or Knights; and the higher functionaries receive fees on the admission of their subordinates into office. The return giving these particulars is signed by "Interim Lyon," which appears to be another name for the Lyon Depute.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

Public attention in Paris is wholly occupied with the European crisis, and very varied opinions prevail as to the probability of war. Cabinet Councils have been held, presided over by the Emperor, at which, it is believed, the questions to be submitted to the proposed European congress have been discussed.

In the Corps Législatif, M. Garnier-Pages expressed regret that no opportunity was offered for protesting in the Chamber against the bombardment of Valparaiso by Spain.

### THE EUROPEAN CRISIS.

It is now believed certain that a congress will be assembled to discuss existing complications in Europe, and to endeavour, if possible, to find a solution of the prevailing difficulties. A definite idea of the character of the proposal for a conference is given by an announcement in the Paris evening *Moniteur*. It is in that paper stated that, in proposing a congress, England, Russia, and France had no intention of proposing a discussion on the state of Europe generally. They have accordingly prepared a statement of the precise questions which are to be submitted to the conference if it meet. That statement is to be sent to Vienna, Berlin, Florence, and Frankfurt, and then the Powers interested will determine whether they will or not come into the conference. There must, therefore, be a lapse of some days before the result can be known, or the proceedings of the Conference commence. Meantime the Powers are preparing for war.

The *Indépendance Belge* says:—"We are now in a position to give further details respecting the negotiations for the proposed congress. Its programme will embody three proposals: 1, That the Schleswig-Holstein question be submitted to the decision of the inhabitants; 2, that the proposal presented by Prussia for a reform of the Federal Constitution be examined, in as far as it may relate to the equilibrium of Europe; 3, that Venetia be ceded to Italy for a certain compensation, Italy guaranteeing and recognising the temporal sovereignty of the Pope within its present limits. The antagonistic Powers will maintain their armaments during the sittings of the congress. France, England, and Russia will propose that all pending questions shall be discussed, including the Italian question. To this it is probable that Prussia will agree, but Austria's adhesion is considered very doubtful."

### AUSTRIA.

The negotiations which have been carried on between Count Bismarck and Count Karolyi have led to no result, since Count Bismarck claims on behalf of Prussia the military and diplomatic representation of the whole of Northern Germany.

Field Marshal von Benedek, Commander-in-Chief of the northern army, has issued his first order of the day to the soldiers under his command. The order is dated the 12th inst., from temporary headquarters in Vienna. In fervent words, the Field Marshal expresses his confidence in the army and in the justice of the Austrian cause. The order bears throughout a decidedly defensive tone. No time is mentioned for the commencement of warlike operations; but the order says that the army has been got ready for defence, and to combat every enemy who threatens the Emperor and the country.

On and after the 20th inst. traffic upon the northern and state railways was to be restricted on account of the transport of troops.

The Archdukes Ernest and Leopold, Prince Liechtenstein, Lieutenant Field Marshals Marvic, Schmerling, Hartung, Counts Clam-Gallas and Thun, and Baron Ramnitz are reported to have been appointed Generals.

The State Treasuries in Bohemia have received orders to forward all their available funds as quickly as possible to Vienna, in view of the danger of war.

The intended fortification of Vienna will cost 5,000,000 fl. It is expected that Archduke William, chief of the artillery, will join the northern army upon the outbreak of hostilities.

### PRUSSIA.

The King has forwarded a reply to the address presented to him on the 19th inst. by the Municipality of Breslau. His Majesty gives his Royal word as a pledge that no ambitious desire, not even such as would be justifiable in the interests of the common Fatherland, but the duty of defending Prussia and her sacred rights alone induced the King to arm his people. The inhabitants of Breslau may be convinced that an understanding on the question at issue between the Government and the Chamber is the earnest aim and wish of the King. In convoking the Prussian Diet, the King hoped that in view of the dangers by which Prussia was threatened, conflicting views on questions of right might be found reconcilable in the general self-sacrifice for the defence of the Fatherland.

The Government has prohibited the exportation, until the 1st of October next, of corn, hay, or straw across the frontier from the Vistula, near Thorn, inclusively, to the frontier bordering on the kingdom of Saxony, near Seidenberg. The prohibition will also apply to exportation across such other parts of the Prussian frontier as border on those States of the Zollverein which shall refuse to decree a similar prohibition.

The Prussian Government has demanded satisfaction from the Cabinet of Vienna for the violation of the frontier at Klingebüttel, where an Austrian patrol stopped and questioned Prussian customs' officials.

Prince Frederick Charles, whose appointment to a high command has already been announced, has been placed at the head of the 1st (Saxon) Army Corps. An army corps is being organised for Silesia, and it is believed that the King will proceed thither on the outbreak of hostilities, accompanied by the Minister of War. The Crown Prince, it is stated, will receive the command of the 5th and 6th Corps d'Armée.

The division commanders of the Prussian infantry regiments have already been appointed, but not those of the cavalry regiments. The reason is that special cavalry corps are to be formed, as was the case in the French army during the last campaign. Three army corps, numbering 90,000 men, are believed to be concentrated upon the Saxon frontier.

A Royal decree has just appeared ordering the establishment of public loan offices and the issue of notes representing the advances made by these loan offices to the amount of 25,000,000 thalers. The operations of these loan offices are to be solely for the benefit of the middle classes. A Government Commissioner, specially appointed for the purpose, will examine the details of each loan, and will have the right of refusing to make the required advance.

### ITALY.

An official decree has been published constituting the fleet a force for naval operations, and dividing it into three squadrons. It is stated that the Government has ordered the mobilisation of ten additional battalions of the National Guard. Last week 26,000 men were enrolled in the Garibaldian Volunteers. It is believed that the number of battalions will be raised from twenty to forty.

The emigration from Venetia continues to be very great. Austria has informed the Italian Government that, by way of reciprocity, she will adopt the principle expressed in the Italian Naval Code, guaranteeing the inviolability of mercantile property at sea, even between belligerent Powers.

### FEDERAL GERMANY.

The proposals for a reform of the federal Constitution, laid before the committee of nine by Prussia, demand the assembly of a German Parliament *ad hoc*—not a constituent assembly; the deputies to be elected according to the chief stipulations of the general electoral law of 1849. A new federal Assembly is to be established, which is to meet periodically and simultaneously with the national Parliament. The latter is to be competent to deliberate upon all matters hitherto referred to Committees of the Federal Diet, and to conferences of Ministers of the German States. Further Prussian proposals relate to the establishment of a German fleet and the consolidation of the military forces of Germany. The Conference of Middle States' representatives at Bamberg is believed to have resolved to call upon Austria for guarantees that she will



**EXPENDITURE FOR POOR RELIEF.**—Another of the half-yearly returns of the Poor-Law Board has been issued, showing that in the half year ending at Michaelmas last the expenditure for in-maintenance and outdoor relief in England and Wales (minus nearly one per cent of the kingdom from which no returns are obtained) amounted to £2,116,216, an increase of 0·6 per cent over the corresponding half of the year 1864; the price of meat and potatoes had risen considerably in the interval, and of wheat to some extent. The expenditure for in-maintenance amounted to £541,736; for outdoor relief, £1,574,480; the increase was in the former. The cost of relief to paupers made irremovable by modern law was 36·2 per cent of the whole expenditure, an increase of 1·3 per cent over the proportion in the corresponding half of the year 1864.



## INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

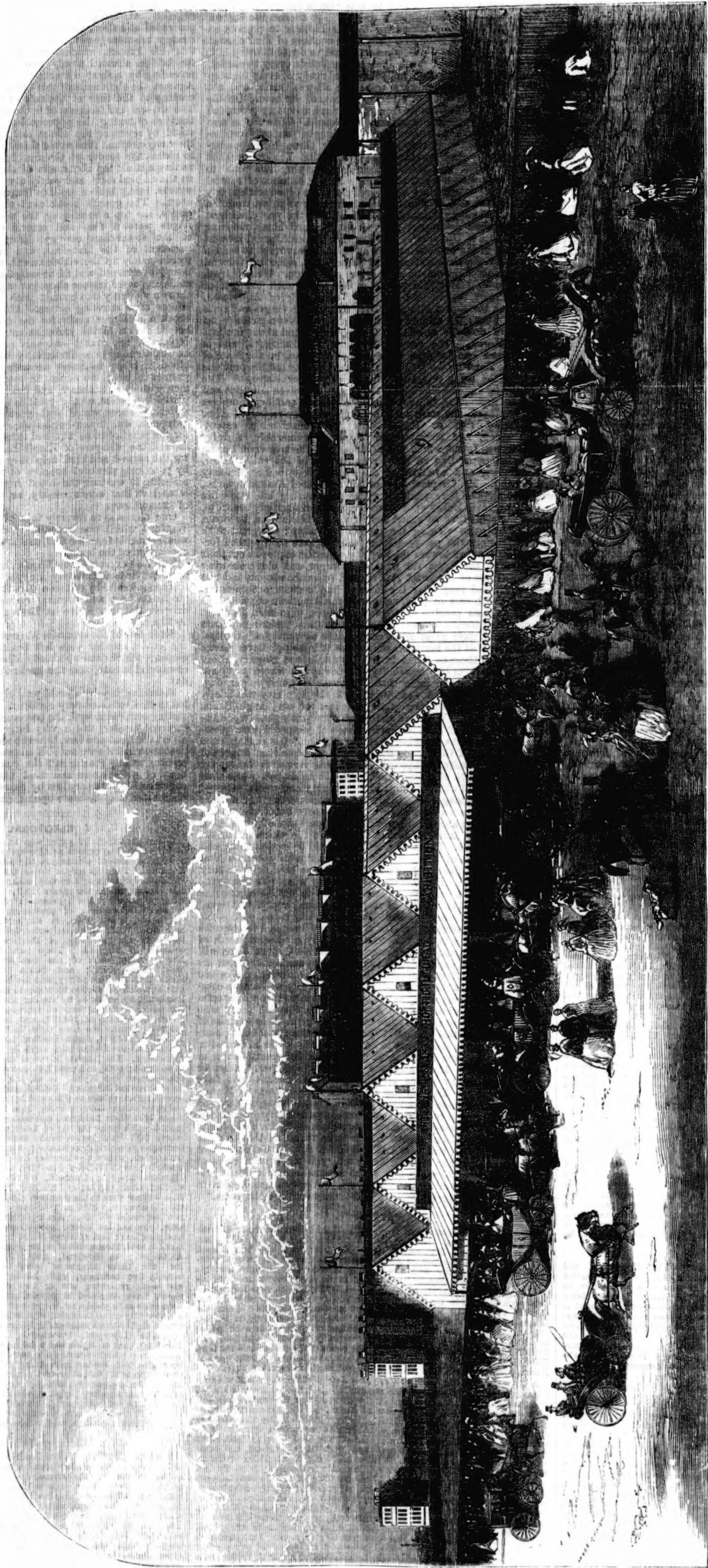
ONE of the largest, and certainly one of the best-arranged, flower shows which have ever been witnessed in England was on Tuesday opened, with the most complete success, on the waste ground of the late Exhibition, near the Horticultural Gardens. A better-arranged or better-displayed exhibition of this kind has never yet been offered to public inspection. Every flower of beauty, every plant of rare worth, from the most delicate orchids and parasites of the tropics up to the hardiest ferns and conifers of the northern regions, are all here exhibited, and exhibited not only in their zones of vegetation and in the utmost development of their forms, but in

all the contrast of colour and foliage which so much brightens their beauty. Unlike other shows, also, the immense collection is not merely ranged in rows of plants and in rows of pots; the wide space in which the flowers and flowering shrubs, palms, trees, ferns, cacti, and green-house plants are shown covers an extent of nearly four acres, which is broken up and diversified by the skill of the landscape-gardener. There are banks and valleys, little hills, and knolls, with rockeries and fountains, so that at every instant and at every turn in the walks fresh glimpses and fresh coups-d'œil relieve the eye. With great good taste, also, the huge red pots in which most of the plants were sent for exhibition are hidden under earth and moss,

so that the whole collection, no matter how varied in its character, seems as if reared on the spot and the result of the careful growth of years. The idea of this international show in England was suggested by the similar exhibitions which have been held in Holland and elsewhere. To carry it out properly a large guarantee fund was necessary, for the preliminary expenses have been no less than £3500, while upwards of £2500 is given in prizes. For a show of such a varied and, above all, of such an extensive character, it was necessary to devise special arrangements. No ordinary building—not even the great extent of the Crystal Palace—was adequate for its proper display. It was therefore determined at once to erect a series of gigantic marquees which, built upon timber supports, and very much on

the old ridge-and-furrow principle of the glass and iron roofs, should suffice to shelter the whole collection.

Accordingly, as we have said, the show, instead of being held on a space too circumscribed for the proper display of flowers, is arranged in a pleasure-ground of more than ordinary dimensions, with broad gravel walks, turfed embankments, miniature lakes, and picturesque rockeries—everything, in fact, which will set forth to advantage the beauties of the specimens exhibited, and give to the visitors facilities for ascertaining their many excellencies. Our readers may glean some notion of the extent of the show from the fact that no less than 162,980 square feet are devoted to the exhibiting area—a space comprising more than three acres and a half.



THE INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON: EXTERIOR VIEW.

Over this area a monster tent has been erected, 562 ft. long by 293 ft. broad. For the erection of this vast structure no less than 40,000 yards of canvas have been employed. The space which this tent occupies extends from the Cromwell-road entrance of the Great Exhibition of 1862 to what formerly constituted the refreshment court of the Exhibition. To the visitor entering from the Cromwell-road, the beds which first attract the attention are those occupied by light-coloured azaleas, pelargoniums, calceolarias, fuchsias, and other flowering plants, and plants of variegated foliage and shrubs of sombre texture occupy those portions not so conspicuous to the ordinary view. M. Ambrose Verschaffelt, M. John Verschaffelt, and M. Linden, of Brussels and Ghent, exhibit a collection of agaves, palms, and ferns of rare variety and beauty. As many as twenty-four classes of azaleas are exhibited by Mr. Turner, of Slough; and it is not too much to say that this collection surpasses anything of the kind hitherto presented to the metropolitan public. It is not only in their height that they excel, but

also in the faultless radiance of colour and the almost mathematical regularity of their bloom. The pyramids of flowers exhibited in this class attest the prominent success attained in the cultivation of these plants, varying, as the flowers exhibited vary, through all degrees of shade, from the most delicate white to the darkest crimson. If anything could surpass in beauty of flower and foliage the collection of azaleas, it would be the marvellous display of roses, which testify to Mr. Turner's skill as one of our leading florists. In the various classes of orchids, palms, and tropical plants a very extensive display is made by Mr. Vetch, who distinguishes himself at every floral fête of this description. In these classes Messrs. Paul, Williams, and Bell are also prominent exhibitors. The rhododendron valley, supplied by Messrs. Waterer and Godfrey, forms one of the most interesting features of the exhibition. The brilliant colours of the plants, constituting as they do in themselves a rich and varied picture, give an appearance of bright and mellowed richness,

affording a pleasant contrast to the calm, cool green of the ferns, which rise above and almost entirely conceal the rock-work in which they are placed. The Crystal Palace Company exhibit by far the finest ferns in the exhibition. One of these is especially remarkable. It was sent some seven years ago in a small glass case—being at that time only a few inches in height—to Mr. Eyles, at that time superintendent at the Crystal Palace gardens, and at present holding a corresponding position in the gardens of the Horticultural Society. It is now 25 ft. high. The tent devoted to orchids, which, we may add, is heated gratuitously by Mr. Ormson, occupies a space greater than that occupied by ordinary flower shows. It is 500 ft. long by 40 ft. wide. The area of the tent is 400,000 cubic feet; the length of pipes to be heated, 3200 ft.; the superficial surface of pipes, 3733 ft.; and the quantity of water to be supplied, 1700 gallons. The whole of this heating apparatus is set in motion by a small wrought-iron boiler, the invention of Mr. Ormson also. This boiler, which is exceed-

ingly economical in consumption of fuel, is a multibulbular one, and is smoke-consuming. Sir C.W. Dilke, M.P., is chairman of the executive committee, while Messrs. Eyles, Gibson Moore, and Dr. Hogg constitute the body on whom the onerous duties of arranging the grounds and flowers mainly depend. It is to be understood that this exhibition is not immediately in connection with the Horticultural Society; but, at the same time, though it does not form one of the society's shows, it has the support and aid of the leading members of the council.

It is almost needless to say that, with a show of such unexampled extent and variety, the attendance of visitors was unusually large. At about half past three o'clock their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales entered the tent, together with Prince Alfred, Princess Helena, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Princess Mary and Prince Teck, General Knollys, Major Teesdale, Colonel Purves, the Hon. Mrs. Hardinge, Sir C. W.





INTERIOR VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

Dilke, and Sir Daniel Cooper were in attendance.

Their Royal Highnesses were conducted over every part of the show, staying longest near the banks of azaleas, roses, and orchids. The chief and the most enterprising of the foreign exhibitors had the honour of being presented to the Royal party, who, after a stay of nearly two hours in the tent, passed into the gardens of the society.

The exhibition has proved so successful that it has been determined to prolong its existence until Thursday, the 31st inst. The attendance on Wednesday was fully equal in every respect to that at the opening; and for those who wished to combine science with pleasure the address of Professor De Candolle, at a meeting held that evening, was a source of great interest. From the 25th to the 31st the charge of admission is to be reduced from 5s. to 1s.

#### THE BOMBARDMENT OF VALPARAISO.

In our last Number we published some account of the bombardment of Valparaiso, of which we are able this week to give an illustration. Our Engraving having been taken from a sketch of the event which took place on the last day of March, will convey to our readers a more complete idea of the relative position of the vessels than could be communicated by an elaborate verbal description.



THE PLACE DE LA VICTOIRE, VALPARAISO.

The view of Valparaiso, or the Vale of Paradise, is scarcely such as to justify its name; the prospect from the sea, so far as the country goes, consisting mostly of a wide extent of rude and irregular hills, of about 1000 ft. or 1500 ft. high, and of a brown colour, only slightly relieved by patches of dull green; and at the base of these hills is seated the town.

The bay is open towards the north-west, but is well protected from the north-east to the south-west, at which latter point the swell of the ocean is broken by the promontory of Coromilla, which unites with the higher lands that protect the port on the south and east. Towards the north there are several rocky islets.

Looking upon the town from the bay, the houses appear to be irregularly placed, and towards the south to stand by steep ways or on terraces, though a more regular line of building is placed along a narrow strip of ground bordering the bay, while the portion towards the north-east appears spread out on more even ground. The port is, or was, protected by forts on the south, the east, and the south-west sides; but even the principal, the Castillo de San Antonio, can scarcely be said to have been very efficient.

Valparaiso, being the principal seaport of Chili, is too completely commercial and has too many foreign residents to present to the stranger those peculiarities



which, more or less, almost everywhere constitute the character of the country and people in other parts of the republic. The inscriptions over the shops and the polyglot announcements in the streets are sufficient evidence of this; and, in fact, the people of most wealth and influence are foreigners, including English or Anglo-American merchants and shipowners and French mechanics and shopkeepers.

The town appears to have been founded by the Spaniards soon after the conquest of the country, but it remained a place of little trade or importance until the colonies obtained their independence. It is stated that in 1817 the population did not exceed 17,000, though it is now nearly treble that number; and the climate is mild and agreeable. The port, however, is so much exposed to northerly and north-west winds during the winter months that vessels are sometimes driven on shore at that season. To avoid this, the ships of war of the maritime nations, for which it is the proper station in the Pacific Ocean, usually winter at Callao, the chief port in Peru. Valparaiso was much damaged by an earthquake in 1822, since which it has been rebuilt. It consists of some long and narrow streets, skirting the bay, with numerous houses forming thoroughfares of little order towards the west and east; while cliffs which support the land side of the thoroughfare between the two divisions prevent any increase of breadth in that direction. The portion of the town towards the west, which is the most ancient, is narrow, steep, and inconvenient; that towards the east is on level ground, and is more open and agreeable.

The principal streets and buildings are, after all, more English than Spanish in appearance. Indeed, there is scarcely any attempt at those courtyards and gateways which form the approach to most Spanish houses.

Among the more remarkable of the public buildings are the Cathedral, the Custom House, and the Exchange; but the former is very badly situated and extremely dark and gloomy, while several of the other churches are mean and paltry, certainly little worthy of attention; the figure of the Virgin in the Cathedral, however, was, if it is not now, dressed in the prevailing mode. The Exchange-rooms, overlooking the bay, are commodious and well provided with newspapers, maps, and a few nautical instruments; and the Custom House is a fine building, occupying a projecting mole, where it is one of the first objects to attract attention. Among the greatest curiosities of Valparaiso mentioned by travellers, are the movable prisons, which are, or were quite, an original invention, and seemed well suited to their purpose. They consist of a number of waggons, each adapted to carry about a dozen convicts, and furnished with benches upon which they repose, and a cook-room, where the meals are prepared. Their chief use is for the repose of the prisoners, who themselves drag them from place to place, to perform the labour assigned to them, whether it be upon the roads or at other public works. Society at Valparaiso is of a singularly varied description, and may be said to be both select and primitive; while the distinctive nationalities of the various elements in the population are still so distinctly marked as to divide the town into various coteries, amongst which there is just sufficient good-fellowship to make a short stay agreeable and interesting to the visitor who can visit it under happier circumstances than those which recent events have produced.

Our smaller engraving represents the Place de la Victoire, Plaza del Vittoria, or Victory-square, according to the nationality of the guide; one of the most important, and, perhaps, the handsomest, of the spaces in Valparaiso.

Commodore John Rogers, of the United States navy, commanding the American squadron off Valparaiso, has reported to his Government concerning the course adopted by him on the occasion of the bombardment of the chief seaport town of Chili by the Spanish fleet. The subjoined excerpts from Commodore Rogers's report relate to his conference with the British Admiral:—

Upon my arrival in this port with the squadron under my command, I called upon the English Admiral, who had informed me that he intended to prevent any sudden bombardment, and would only suffer it after ample notice. To this I made no reply; but, having considered the matter, sought occasion the next day to say that I would join him in preventing any sudden bombardment, and that I would also go as much further as he chose. I assured him that the *Monadnock* could take care of the *Nunancia*; that, from target experiments I had witnessed, I was absolutely certain that in not less than thirty seconds, and not more than thirty minutes, the *Monadnock* herself, entirely unassisted, would leave only the masts of the *Nunancia* above water, and that our wooden vessels, English and American, could look out for the wooden vessels of the Spaniards. In thus offering to go beyond the letter of my instructions to observe a strict neutrality, I acted upon the supposition that neutrality among the nations did not preclude all well-directed efforts to keep the peace among them; that as a peaceable citizen is not obliged to stand by inert while another is suffering from the unlawful violence of a third person, but may justly interfere with force to prevent an infraction of the laws—a murder, for example—so a nation, witnessing the like disturbance among her sister nations, need not rest absolutely impotent, but with sincere neutrality might interfere, with force if necessary, to keep the operation of belligerents at least within the law for the protection of neutral persons and neutral property. . . . I am aware that action in the premises on our part involves great responsibilities; but I had reached the conclusion that, with England as an ally, it was my duty now to show them. I told the English Admiral what I have written, and frankly added that his commerce was more extensive than ours and more convenient to the coast of Spain; but, as he had more to suffer in consequence of a rupture with Spain, he had also more to preserve by interference; that his interests in Chili rose to thousands, while ours were only hundreds. The English Admiral said, at first, that he would go with me; for I plainly declared that I would not take a step without him. I said that I had no intention of becoming a cat's paw to draw European chestnuts out of the fire, and then have the Power I served laughing at my sly paws while they enjoyed the fruits of my temerity. The English Admiral finally determined to throw the responsibility upon the English Minister, who did not choose to act in the premises. English co-operation having failed, no separate action on my part was taken, as none had been proposed. . . . When I was assured that the English Admiral was determined not to resist a bombardment I called upon him and said that, as I did not choose to drift into a collision where I had no purpose to collide, I should move my vessels to get out of the Spanish way. This intention I communicated verbally to the Spanish Admiral. Thrust by circumstances into a position in which it became necessary to take some part, I feel a natural anxiety to know whether the one I took meets with the approbation of the Government. In my whole course I have conferred freely with our Minister, General Kilpatrick, and desired the benefit of his advice and assistance. In all I have done, or offered to do, he has been consulted, and he has fully concurred. If his name has not been mentioned before, it was because I did not wish to break the continuity of my narrative, and not because I am without a strong sense of obligation for his co-operation.

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 20th inst. publishes the following official despatch of Admiral Mendez Nunez, giving an account of his recent operations at Valparaiso.

Flag-ship *Nunancia*, March 31, 1866.

Sir,—Profoundly grieved as your Excellency will understand, and sadly impressed as every commander of a squadron must be whose duty it becomes to direct the fire of his ships against an unresisting population, I hasten to inform you of the manner in which I have carried out this painful task in accordance with the instructions I received from her Majesty's Government, after having appealed without success to all means of conciliation that were compatible with self-respect, as your Excellency will perceive from the accompanying private communications, and the Government of Chili persisting in its refusal to grant the satisfaction which was due to our insulted flag.

This morning, at daybreak, the vessels under my command, being in perfect order, got under way and cast anchor within the port of Valparaiso shortly before eight o'clock. The English and American divisions had quitted their moorings to take up their stations at the mouth of the harbour. At eight o'clock I hoisted on board my ship the prearranged signal to run out the guns and to give notice that after the lapse of one hour our fire would open. At 8.45 I ordered the decks to be cleared for action, and at 9.15, each vessel occupying the position which had been assigned to it in the orders previously issued, and of which I forward a copy to your Excellency, I directed the fire to commence against the enemy.

The *Villa de Madrid*, the *Blanca*, and the *Vencedora*, anchored at a distance of from four to seven cables' length of the points upon which their broadsides were directed, maintained a fire remarkable for accuracy and precision. The manoeuvres were all admirably executed. The *Resolucion* was not able until ten o'clock to take up a proper position to bombard the point which had been assigned to her. The fire of this vessel was not always very well directed, so that, perceiving that she was not able to throw her grenades into the building connected with the railway, but that, on the contrary, many of the missiles fell upon a convent situated upon an elevation at some distance, I ordered the vessel to discontinue firing at a point where its shots were thrown away, and to direct its broadsides upon the warehouses of the custom-

house, an operation which was successfully performed. In accordance with the verbal instructions which I had given him, the commander of the *Blanca*, in concert with the *Vencedora*, bombarded the buildings of the Exchange and of the Administration.

At 11.30 I gave orders to the *Blanca* to attack the railway establishments, and to the *Villa de Madrid* to turn its fire upon a barrack and a small fort placed upon a height above the customs warehouses, upon which was displayed the Chilean flag. The gunners of the *Villa de Madrid* displayed admirable skill. They succeeded in shooting away the stays of the staff, and the flag was left hanging upon the broken stump. At noon the four warehouses of the custom house were in flames, as well as that part of the city which immediately adjoined the Exchange, in consequence of a shell thrown by the *Vencedora*, and which, rebounding upon the neighbouring houses, thus extended the fire. The railway establishment being also destroyed, I gave orders to cease firing by hoisting the Spanish flag at my mizenmast-head—the signal agreed upon with the British Admiral and the American Commodore to denote the termination of the bombardment. I then immediately returned with my vessels to the anchorage which, ever since the publication of the manifesto to the diplomatic representatives in Santiago, has been taken up by the squadron, leaving the *Resolucion* to maintain the blockade. The foreign vessels having resumed their former anchorage, I addressed a letter to the English Admiral begging him to let me immediately know whether any great loss of life had been occasioned in Valparaiso. Admiral Denman replied to me very kindly, stating that, according to the information which had reached him, four persons had been killed on shore.

## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 280.

### ATTRACTIVE IRISH DEBATE.

WHEN an Irish motion makes its appearance in the House, the English and Scotch members generally consider that they may take a holiday, and as soon as the clerk at the table calls the motion on they lift their anchors and send away to their homes or their clubs, and let the Irishmen have the debate to themselves. But it was not so last week on the night when the Irish Tenure and Improvement of Land Bill, brought in by the Government, was down for second reading. On this occasion there was a pretty full House when Lord Naas rose to oppose the bill, and the members, English and Scotch, as well as Irish, sat out, with admirable patience, Lord Naas's long and wearisome speech. But it was not his Lordship's speech that kept the members together; indeed, Lord Naas has not the oratorical power, without other attractions to help him, to hold a House. He is a man of no small ability; he can and does study the subject which he has in hand; he can marshal his arguments with no small skill; he can bring up his facts to back up his arguments with military precision; and, being an Irishman, of course he never stops or falters for want of words; but, nevertheless, he is an awfully dull, lengthy, prosaic, and wearisome speaker. From beginning to end he speaks in a monotone, and never rises above or sinks below his keynote, but lets his speech flow out of him like a sluggish stream, whose surface no storm ever ruffles, and which never rises above or sinks below its normal level. It would be wrong, however, to suppose that his speeches are not at all worth listening to, if you could but listen. He is a Conservative, and, in the main, speaks Conservatism; but now and then there are glimmerings of liberal ideas in his speeches. He is a strong, but, on the whole, not an ungenerous partisan; and certainly, to the best of his ability, he masters by patient industry every subject he undertakes to discuss. He is, moreover, we venture to say, an honest debater—that is to say, he does not use arguments which he knows to be bad; nor does he adduce facts which he does not believe to be true; which is only saying that, though he is a partisan, he is a gentleman. But still, he is not an attractive speaker; and it was not his speech which kept the House on that Thursday night. What was it, then?

### AWFUL HERESIES.

Well, there were more reasons than one why the benches were full on this occasion. First, this was a bill for regulating the tenure and improvement of land; and it was brought in, not by a private Irish member, to be talked about and then to be dismissed to go its way after the many Irish land bills which have, during the last twenty years, made their appearance and then vanished, but by the Government, with an honest intention to settle for a time this much-vexed question. Yes; the Government was about to take up, or rather had taken up, this great Irish land question at last. What wonder, then, that members, especially the lords of the soil, stopped to hear this question discussed? For, consider what a question this is in the eyes of landlords. Touch the sacred rights of land! "Heavens! what are we coming to," as we heard an Irish landlord say, after listening to Mr. John Stuart Mill's speech, which we shall soon have to notice. We have had many heresies set afloat lately—heresies in science, heresies in religion—but none of these are so intolerable to the landlord mind as heresies on the land question. Bad enough to have them broached in books; but to hear them openly discussed in Parliament—and, worst of all, sanctioned by Government—is indeed a most portentous sign of the times to the lords of the soil. What! question our right to do what we like with our own! What next, and next? Mere revolution and chaos come again can only result if once the sacred rights of land are infringed. Here, then, we have one reason why the House was full.

### CATCHING THE SPEAKER'S EYE.

But there were others. It was known that Mr. Lowe was going to speak, and it was suspected that Mr. John Stuart Mill would follow. We say it was known. By this we mean that there were the usual signs. Mr. Lowe sat through Lord Naas's long speech and that of the Irish Attorney-General, and seemed to be hanging impatiently on the slip, as greyhounds do. Mr. Mill, it was observed, had a paper of notes in his hand. Moreover, this land question Mr. Mill has made his own, and it was natural to expect that he would have something to say about it. And so it got whispered abroad that these two notable debaters would speak upon the question. Mr. Lowe rose with the Irish Attorney-General, but the learned gentleman is a Minister of the Crown, sits just under Mr. Speaker's nose, and, of course, first caught the right hon. gentleman's eye. We may, however, here say that when a member of the Government rises to speak he always, before all others, catches the Speaker's eye—or, rather, we might say the Speaker's eye catches him. It would be a mistake to suppose that this "catching the Speaker's eye" is mere chance work, that on whomsoever the Speaker's eye first falls, him Mr. Speaker calls up, as the phrase would seem to mean. Mr. Speaker exercises his discretion. Ministers of the Crown, as we have said, have, as a rule, the preference; next to them, the most eminent men. And, if we think of it, we shall see that this is as it should be. Mr. Speaker is the interpreter of the House's will in this as in all other matters, and he takes care to fix his eye upon those members whom he knows by experience that the House desires to hear. This is the rule, not set down in the books, but established by usage. Indeed, when Mr. Speaker departs, or seems to depart, from this rule, the House takes the matter in its own hands, as it has a right to do; and there are instances on record of motions being made and carried in opposition to the call of the Speaker. Some people fancy that Mr. Speaker is an absolute president, and that his word is law. This is a mistake. Generally, the House bows promptly to his decision—almost always, we may say; but that is because he is almost always right. But if he were to give a wrong decision—that is, a decision contrary to standing orders or long-established usage—the House has the power at once to dispute it and get it reversed. In short, he is the "Speaker" of the House, and not its ruler. But we are digressing.

### THE NEW IRISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Attorney-General for Ireland, then, rose after Lord Naas. The name and style of this gentleman is the Right Honourable James Anthony Lawson, Q.C.; he came into Parliament, if we remember rightly, last year; he succeeded to the attorney-generalship when Mr. O'Hagan was elevated to the Bench. For a time the Government had no Irish legal advisers in the House, and poor Sir Robert Peel, as the Irish Secretary, had to meet the varied ranks of the Irishmen on the Opposition side, with Sir Hugh Cairns and Mr. Whiteside at their head, and the free lances scattered about the

House, alone. Now, however, we have both the Irish Attorney and Solicitor in the House, and both of them are able lawyers, it is said, and good speakers, as we know; Mr. Lawson is especially a good speaker, and on this night did his work well, and this is all that we shall say of Mr. Lawson.

### MR. LOWE ADRIFT.

After Lawson came Lowe. He got the call of the Speaker, and, the House echoing it, his competitors promptly sank into their back seats. Mr. Lowe opposed the bill, to the great joy of the lords of the soil, who cheered him heartily. What a godsend is the member for Calne to the Conservatives! They have nobody on their side equal to him; and no speeches are so suited to the Conservative mind as his. Disraeli is eloquent, rhetorical, witty, ingenious, and epigrammatic; but the sober, old-fashioned Conservatives never liked him nor his speeches. "He is not straightforward," as we heard an old Conservative say, and there is a great deal of meaning in this phrase. English people, and especially old-fashioned country gentlemen, like a man to be straightforward; and this Disraeli certainly is not. He looks upon the vulgar, straightforward, beaten path as quite unworthy of his genius, and likes to make a path of his own; and, as his paths are often tortuous and very misty to plain, old-fashioned country gentlemen, they cannot follow him, and do not like him, and in private they do not conceal their dislike, though, like gentlemen as they are, they loyally abstain, except on rare occasions, from expressing publicly their dislike of the man whom they have deliberately chosen as their leader. "Who's up?" said a country squire to another country squire. "Dizzy," was the reply. "And what's he doing?" "Oh, dodging and fencing, in his usual style." But Lowe's speeches are exactly to their mind. He is direct, straightforward, to use their own phrase: uses plain arguments, whether right or wrong, and clothes them in plain, terse English. Ah! if they could but hook this man now, and bring him over to their side. Well, patience, gentlemen, patience. The member for Calne is obviously drifting away from his old friends; and perhaps he may drift into your latitude and anchor permanently there, as Lord Richo appears to have done. Who knows?

### MILL ON IRISH LAND TENURE.

Mr. Mill followed Mr. Lowe, and though it was dinner-time, the House still held together well; and well it was repaid for so doing. Mr. Mill spoke for the measure, to the great delight of the Government and to the Irishmen—the true Hibernians, we mean—the landless gentlemen in opposition to the landed—the true old Celtic race, the Os and the Macs, whose ancestors, ages ago, had the land, but were displaced by English, or half English half Irish, and not the successors of these intruders. These—the true Irish, we mean—were charmed by Mr. Mill's speech. They hung upon his lips; they devoured his words; and, though they did not cheer loudly, it was evident to all that the cheers came from their very hearts. All writers on Ireland and the Irish have noticed that the Irish people are always moved by kindness; and, if this be so, no wonder that the Irish were deeply impressed by this speech; for generosity, pity, kindness, a full recognition of Ireland's wrongs, and an earnest desire to have them redressed, characterised this noble speech from beginning to end. And these expressions of kindness were no rhetorical artifices—they evidently came from the heart of the speaker; and, consequently, they went directly to the heart. But, to Conservative ears, what strange doctrines did Mr. Mill utter! We wish we had space to give some of them. But, no matter, all our readers have seen and read this speech—at least, we hope so. Suffice it to say that the lords of the soil were startled, and stared at the speaker aghast; and yet these doctrines are not new, and are strange only to those who have never studied political economy, for all our best writers have advanced the same. Country gentlemen, however, do not study political economy, and they look upon all discussions upon theories of land tenure with as much horror as Earl Shaftesbury looks upon "Ecce Homo," or as our Tory forefathers did upon Tom Paine's "Rights of Man;" and, to think that such sentiments should be uttered in the House of Commons, and be sanctioned by a Government, and that the leader of the House and other Ministers of the Crown should listen to them devoutly, and actually nod their heads in approbation! What are we coming to? Mr. Mill spoke with more ease on this occasion than he ever did before. He condescended to use notes, and he had not to pause every now and then, as he did in his former speeches, when he had finished one argument to recollect the next, and he spoke with more feeling and emphasis.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 18.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, referring to the temporary suspension of the meetings of Parliament and the threatening state of affairs on the Continent, inquired whether any negotiations are now in progress with a view to settle by Congress or otherwise the pending disputes between several European Powers.

Lord CLARENDON, admitting the gravity of the circumstances and the propriety of the question, said that confidential communications were in progress which he hoped might lead to a meeting of all the Powers, and thence to a pacific settlement of questions in dispute.

### SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

Lord REDESDEALE then moved the third reading of the Selling and Hawking Goods on Sundays Bill, Lord Chelmsford having abandoned the charge of it since the introduction of the amendment carried by Lord Redesdale on the previous evening.

Lord TAUNTON moved that the third reading be deferred for six months, and in so doing repeated all the objections which had been urged against the bill in the previous discussions.

A somewhat protracted conversation ensued, in the course of which Lord HARROWBY supported the third reading, but suggested that the operation of the measure should be limited to the metropolitan district—a view which was concurred in by Lord Ravensworth; while the Duke of Cleveland and Lords Teynham and Stratford de Redcliffe supported the amendment.

Upon a division the third reading was carried by a majority of one, the numbers being 50 to 49.

Upon the question of the bill passing, a discussion arose upon the enforcement of the penal clauses being imposed upon the police, which was terminated by a recommendation from the LORD CHANCELLOR to adjourn the debate, in order that a clause might be properly drawn for consideration. The debate was then adjourned for a fortnight.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### CATTLE TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

Sir G. GREY, in answer to Mr. Read, stated that the present restrictions relating to the public sale of cattle at fairs and markets would be continued, with certain exceptions, from the 1st of June until further notice; and, in reply to Mr. Graves, Mr. M. GIBSON intimated that a measure relating to the movement of glycerine oil would be shortly laid on the table.

#### THE RECIPROCITY TREATY WITH AMERICA.

On the motion for the adjournment over the Whitsuntide recess, Mr. WATKIN called attention to the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, expressing at the outset a strong opinion that her Majesty's Government had been guilty of great negligence and want of foresight, and had kept back the facts from the House. After relating the circumstances attending the completion of the treaty, and showing by copious extracts from commercial returns the advantages which it had conferred both on the States and Canada, he argued, referring frequently to the events of the last few years, that the Government were quite aware that it was intended to terminate it, and charged upon them—particularly on Earl Russell's coldness and angularity—the blame of not obtaining its renewal, the American Government and public opinion in the States, up to the end of 1864 at least, being perfectly ready to enter into negotiations for the purpose. He alleged that their indifference had the effect of fostering the annexation and the protectionist parties, and, after some further strictures on the neglect of the Government to furnish Parliament with information, and advertising to the recent dispatch of an American squadron to the fishery-grounds, he pressed now for a full explanation of their intentions.

Mr. LAYARD, after censuring the mischievous character of Mr. Watkin's speech, assured the House that the Government were fully alive to the importance of the treaty, of the value of which he spoke in the warmest terms. He contended, however, that the negotiations pointed at by Mr. Watkin were impossible, for the notice of termination was given, not by the President, but by Congress; and at that time, though many important meetings were held in favour of the treaty, public opinion in the States, on the whole, was so strong against this country that it was found impossible to open com-



munications for the prolongation of the treaty with any effect. American politicians, too, who were favourable to the treaty were of opinion that it would be better and more convenient to wait till the confederation of the colonies was accomplished. Delegates were sent afterwards from the colonies to negotiate with the Finance Committee of Congress, but they were totally unable to obtain the prolongation of the treaty even for a year; and Mr. Seward, in reply to a final letter from Sir F. Bruce expressing the readiness of our Government to prolong the treaty, threw the responsibility of decision on the Committee of Congress. He explained the arrangements made by our Government to prevent any collision arising out of the fishery question, expressing a belief that the dispatch of the American squadron would tend to that result; and, after eulogising highly the friendly and conciliatory spirit of the American Government, he stated that proposals had been made which would probably be satisfactory to all parties.

After some remarks from Mr. Oliphant, The O'Connor Don, and Mr. White, Mr. CARDWELL, in answer to Mr. Kinnaird, stated that the bonding privileges would not terminate with the treaty. He concurred with Mr. Layard that the presence of an American fleet at the fisheries would be favourable to peace, and assured the House that the two Governments were in friendly communication, and that arrangements had been made for the temporary protection of the interests which had grown up under the treaty.

#### THE NEW LAW COURTS.

The competition for the new Courts of Justice was again brought before the House by Mr. BENTINCK, who, supported by Mr. Boreford Hope and Sir G. Bowyer, pressed for extending the area both of competitors and judges. Mr. COWPER defended the scheme of competition framed by the Committee; and Mr. TITE, though regretting that the principle of open competition had not been adopted, could not see his way to it now without doing injustice to the twelve gentlemen selected. Mr. AYRTON made some remarks on the cost of the plan; and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in replying to him, warned the House against interfering with the responsibility of the Commission to which the superintendence of this great work had been intrusted.

The motion for adjournment to Thursday next having been agreed to, while Mr. B. Cochrane was moving an address for a commission to inquire into the constitution of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the House was counted out.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 24. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN CONFERENCE.

Mr. DISRAELI asked whether the Government had any communication to make to the House with reference to the proposed conference at Paris—whether it was a fact that the Government were to send a representative to that conference.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he had had no communication during the day from the Foreign Office on the subject. He did not think there was anything to add to the short statement made in another place by his noble friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Her Majesty's Government had acceded to the proposal made to them so far as to entertain the question; but the precise terms, and the basis on which the invitation was to be addressed to the Powers of Europe in general, had not, he thought, been finally adjusted, according to the latest information that he had received. At the same time, he did not think there was any reason to believe that any difficulty was likely to arise with reference to the adjustment of these terms.

##### CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the second reading of this bill.

Mr. HUBBARD moved that it was inexpedient to retain as part of the inland revenue for the service of the year the present duties on fire and marine insurances, which are unjust in their incidence on property, and injurious to the national industry.

Mr. MARSH, in seconding the motion, contended that the National Debt was, in fact, no debt at all, and said that one of the great arguments for paying it off was the coal supply. The reasoning which had been employed in reference to this subject was, in his opinion, utterly groundless. Our great prosperity, he said, did not depend upon coal, and although the coal supply should fail, some substitute would be found.

After some discussion, the amendment was rejected without a division, and the bill was read a second time.

##### TERMINABLE ANNUITIES BILL.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in proposing the second reading of this bill, said he had never thought it necessary to argue the question involved in this measure, because he considered that the policy of paying off our debt by means of fixed operations from year to year, under the form of terminable annuities, was an elementary proposition connected with our financial policy. The present measure, therefore, was in effect only a partial return to that scale of operations which had been uniformly followed for a long period until a very few years ago. The book debt of about £24,000,000, being the amount of savings-banks deposits, would be converted into terminable annuities, at an annual charge of £1,725,000. In consequence of what was called the dead weight and other liabilities that would drop in in the course of a short time, there would be a decrease of the charge to the amount of £900,000, whilst in 1885 about £62,500,000 of debt would have been converted. The operation would continue until 1905 with proportionate results. The right hon. gentleman then entered at some length into the details of his measure. The spare balances would be invested in securities. A portion of them would be converted into Three per Cent Stock, and power was taken by the bill to convert such stock as might thus accrue from year to year into another set of annuities, ending in the year 1905.

After a lengthened discussion, in the course of which some of the calculations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer were characterised as fallacies, the bill was read a second time.

The Commons (Metropolis) Bill was also read a second time.

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SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1866.

#### THE MORAL OF THE LATE PANIC.

THE late monetary panic, originating as it did in the operations of the finance companies, shows that those persons act a foolish part who are in too great a hurry to get rich. In other words, the desire for unreasonably high interest for money is sure to defeat itself in the end. A notion got abroad that, through the medium of monetary companies, rates of interest on an exorbitant scale could be obtained by persons who gave no further aid to the work than merely lodging certain sums in the hands of the managers of companies professing to trade in money. People who hope to get rich without any personal exertion, seem to forget that exceptionally high profits can only be obtained in exceptional circumstances; that high interest means doubtful security; that it is unreasonable to expect the managers of companies to be as careful of the property of others as they would be of their own, or as their clients, did they possess the necessary knowledge, would be themselves; that the wish to have money to work with tempts men to make too flattering promises; that the necessity of fulfilling, or of trying to fulfil, these promises has a tendency to induce speculation on the chance of making a lucky hit; and that men who are willing to promise to pay a high price for accommodation either never mean to pay at all or are conscious that the security they offer is of a doubtful character. Money comes

in freely for a time under the stimulus of the promise of large profits without trouble. All indolent persons with a little cash and the desire to make it more without labour, hasten to take shares or to deposit with the money-dealers; the companies go to work lending; speculators are ever ready to borrow on no matter what terms; and thus matters go on pleasantly for a time. But an inevitable crash comes at last. The borrower cannot pay the companies either interest or principal; the companies are in a like position as regards their depositors; the weakest—or the rashest, which is, perhaps, the something—of these corporations succumbs, and a general panic ensues. This is the ordinary, as it is the natural, and indeed inevitable, course of things. The round of events has been gone over again and again, and will continue to be gone over again and again so long as people are silly enough to think that they can become rich without trouble and obtain high interest without running risks and meeting with losses. There is no royal road to wealth any more than to other things. Whatever men get they must labour for in some way, and those who won't themselves work must be content with smaller gains. Men who have special gifts or special opportunities, or who exert themselves in an exceptional way, may realise large percentages on the capital they employ; but the great majority of mankind must be satisfied with moderate gains if they desire to be safe in their investments. That is the moral taught by monetary crises, and this is the lesson we would desire to inculcate from the last event of the kind.

#### SHOWS.

THIS is an age of shows, and we English are especially distinguished as show-makers. But the public shows of the time and of our country are not in any respect mere shows—there is nothing of sham about them; they have substantial elements in their composition. At our horse shows we exhibit some of the finest specimens of the noble quadruped that the most "horsey" country in the world can breed; as might have been seen this week in the Agricultural Hall at Islington. At the Horticultural Show at South Kensington, the finest flowers the world can produce have been displayed. And along with both exhibitions have been associated a display of implements and apparatus useful in many and varied ways. Truly goodly shows are these. Profitable are they; and, while pleasing to the eye, supplying valuable food for reflection and agreeable evidences of human ingenuity and progress. May the International Horticultural Exhibition and the Metropolitan Horse Show have many worthy successors!

#### SUNDAY TRADING.

PERHAPS there are few subjects to which Lord Melbourne's rule of "letting alone" is more applicable than to Sunday trading. It is a matter exceedingly difficult to deal with legislatively. In the first place, people, both sellers and buyers, dislike having their liberty of action interfered with. In the second, a practice that has grown up to the dimensions which Sunday trading has done, must have some at least of the elements of necessity in it. People naturally like leisure, and it is improbable that numbers of persons would voluntarily and without cause sacrifice their Sunday rest were there no reasons in our social condition that render it necessary that they should do so. In the third place, it is difficult, if not impossible, to discriminate as to what articles are needful to be supplied on Sundays and which are not. What is one man's necessity is not another's; and legislation which shall be absolutely impartial, or even approximately so, is next to impossible. And in the fourth place, there are almost insuperable difficulties in the way of enforcing all laws on the subject. This can only be done by a reprehensible system of espionage and informership, against which English feeling instinctively rebels. For these reasons, it would have been wise in Lord Chelmsford to have "let alone" the subject dealt with in the bill lately introduced by him into the House of Lords. He has failed in pleasing any party or individual; and has had his measure so altered and transformed as to be no longer recognisable, even by himself. He had better not have meddled with the matter at all. Those who do not wish to trade on Sundays, need not do it; and voluntary action will always be more effectual in suppressing unnecessary trading than any legislation can be. But, if we must legislate on the subject, the principle embodied in Lord Redesdale's amendments is the best that can be adopted. Take no note of the nature of the article sold, but limit the hours during which vending shall be practised. It may be—we doubt not it is—offensive to religious people to see trading openly carried on and to have the discordant cries of street vendors salute their ears during the hours of Divine service; and we think their feelings are entitled to some consideration. But the remedy, as proposed by Lord Redesdale, is simple and of easy application. Stop all trading during morning service on Sundays—that is, between eleven and one o'clock; and decency is secured without seriously interfering with the convenience of any one. The rule has already been applied, and has, on the whole, worked satisfactorily, in the case of public-houses. There is no difficulty in applying it, and no reason why it should not work as satisfactorily, as regards other trades.

THE SUM of £50 being required as an immediate outlay on the building and grounds of the Printers' Almshouse, the committee earnestly solicit the benevolence of all interested in printing to contribute towards this special appeal. Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the collector, Mr. C. Pope, 14, Derby-street, Argyle-square, W.C.

OPENING OF THE NEVA.—Information was received at St. Petersburg, last week, to the effect that the ice had disappeared from Lake Ladoga, and, consequently, that the Neva was free. The authorities immediately proceeded to ream the bridges of boats which unite the different quarters of the capital, and the next day that of the palace was open to circulation.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE MARRIAGE OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS HELENA is definitely settled to take place on July 5, in the private chapel at Windsor Castle.

THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE will take place on the 12th of June, in the parish church of Kew.

THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD is suffering from very serious illness, and is unable for the present to attend to any business.

Mr. LAYARD appears to have gone to Paris to make some arrangements for the proposed congress. He had an interview on Tuesday with M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and was afterwards received by the Emperor.

THE ACCESSION OF PRINCE ALFRED TO THE PEERAGE, by the title of the Duke of Edinburgh, it is understood will take place on her Majesty's birthday. Among the lesser titles to be borne by his Royal Highness will be that of Earl of Ulster.

Mr. PEABODY is living privately at New York, and refuses all ovations.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES are reported, by a telegram from Suiz, to be at liberty and in safety.

A TELEGRAPH CABLE is about to be laid between the United States and Cuba.

LORD WODEHOUSE is to be raised to the dignity of an earl by the title of Earl of Kimberley, the name of his Lordship's seat in Norfolk.

THE PERSONALTY of the late Sir Charles Lock Eastlake has been sworn under £40,000.

THE FIRST VOLUME of a HINDOSTANEE TRANSLATION OF SHAKESPEARE has been issued at Bombay.

THE PRINCIPAL and PROFESSORS of the UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH have agreed to petition Parliament for two seats to the Scottish Universities, instead of one as proposed by Government.

THE CHAIR of POLITICAL ECONOMY in University College, London, will become vacant at the end of the present session, in consequence of the retirement of Professor Waley, who has occupied the chair since 1853.

A SHARK was recently caught off the Australian coast, the stomach of which contained a snake and a cheque-book. This is the only time we have heard of a shark carrying his cheque-book about with him.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL states that every year there are upwards of 12,000 letters posted without any address, "and of these last year 209 contained c. h. notes, bills, and cheques, to the amount in all of £3700."

A GRAND REVIEW of VOLUNTEERS took place, on Monday, at Cambridge, in presence of a large and brilliant field of spectators, including a considerable number of ladies. The evolutions were performed with admirable precision, and a most agreeable day was the result.

MISS ISA CRAIG having resigned her position of assistant secretary of the Social Science Association to practise social science in a new capacity—that of a wife—a number of the members subscribed, and have presented to her, a silver tea service and silver as a wedding present.

MALDEN ISLAND, in the South Pacific Ocean, has been found rich in animal deposits, and promises to be the scene of active operations in the guano trade. Ships are trading there now from Melbourne. The island is situated in lat. 3 deg. 58 min. 30 sec. S., and long. 155 deg. W.

LOCUSTS have done much damage to the cotton crop in Syria. In Egypt the crop will be much smaller this year than that of 1865. In Anatolia and Roumelia there will be fully threefold more cotton this year than has ever been grown before, and of a better description.

THE DOWAGER LADY TRURO died on Monday afternoon, very suddenly. It will be remembered that her Ladyship's brother, Sir Augustus D'Este, claimed the dukedom of Sussex on the death of his father, the well-known son of George III.; but the marriage of the Duke with Lady Augusta Murray, the mother of Sir Augustus and Lady Truro, was pronounced invalid by the House of Lords, as having been contracted without the consent of the Crown.

A MEETING of wholesale and retail dealers of Whitechapel and the Minories was held on Wednesday night at the Cutlers' Arms, Cutler-street, Houndsditch, and resolutions pledging those present to oppose the Sunday Trading Bill were passed.

A CONDITIONAL PARDON was on Wednesday issued from the Home Office commencing the capital sentence passed upon Charlotte Winsor to one of penal servitude for life.

THE FIGHT for the CHAMPIONSHIP, between Mace and Goss, on Thursday, resulted in a "draw," after an hour and a quarter's "harmless posture-making."

THE EDITORS of sixteen of the more important liberal papers of Prussia have just met at Glessen to concert a common course of action in the existing emergency. All agreed to advocate peace as long as they could, and promote revolution, in the interests of unity, if war were to be inevitable.

A SERIOUS FIRE took place in Wells-street, Oxford-street, on Wednesday. It began in a coachbuilder's manufactory, and extended to other premises, until it seemed as if the whole street was a mass of flames. An enormous amount of property was destroyed before the fire could be extinguished.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING of persons interested in preserving the business of Overend, Gurney, and Co. was held, at the London Tavern, on Wednesday. Mr. Sheppard moved a resolution approving of the re-establishment of the company on certain safe and well-considered principles. A long and rather warm discussion ensued, and eventually a committee was appointed to determine what course should be pursued.

#### HORSE SHOW AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

THE second great horse show which has been held in London was opened on Saturday, with the utmost success, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. Up to the very hour of closing it was expected that their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales would honour the exhibition with their presence, and every preparation had been made for their reception. The Prince, however, was unable to go, and, of course, under these circumstances, the Princess was likewise absent. Every part of the hall, however, was crowded with a most fashionable assemblage, and every part from which a view of the trials of the horses could be gained was thronged. Among others present were the Duke of Richmond, the Duke of St. Albans, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Exeter, Lord and Lady Constance Grosvenor, Lord Stamford, Lord Spencer, Lord Faversham, Lord Ebury, &c. General Count Fleury, Master of the Horse to the Emperor of the French, was also present. The hall was opened as early as nine o'clock, and the judgment of the relative merits of the horses commenced at ten. The chief judges, who were helped by professional assistants, were Lord Portsmouth, Lord Combermere, Sir Watkin W. Wynn, Sir George Wombwell, and Captain Percy Williams. Almost as soon as the judging of the horses commenced the building was crowded. Every arrangement, however, had been made to facilitate the passage of visitors round and between the stalls in which the different animals were kept. The hall is admirably adapted to this purpose, the arena for trying the horses is amply spacious, and the ventilation of all the building is perfect. Though it can scarcely be said to be a good time of the year at which to assemble horses for display, entries were unusually numerous. When it is recollected how horses are in training now, or otherwise employed, it is almost surprising to find that in the seventeen classes for which prizes were offered upwards of 300 animals were entered. In these classes were included every kind and description of horse—racers, hunters, hacks, roadsters, ladies' horses, and ponies. The latter formed, as usual, a very popular and very numerous class. There were many of them so small as to be less than eight or nine hands high, while one actually only reached the height of 32 in. Judging commenced with class 15, thorough-bred stallions for getting hunters. In this magnificent class of animals, after long deliberation, the first prize was awarded to Mr. Topham's bay stallion Storm Stayed, aged five years. The second prize was taken by Mr. Phillips's Prince Plausible. Very many of the horses in this class were marked in money value nearly to as much in amount as the price of those which gained these prizes, yet the decision in favour of the animals we have mentioned seemed to meet with unanimous approval. In the class for weight-carrying hunters Mr. Sutton's Voyager gained the highest honours, and Mr. Thomson's Rainbow the second prize. The justice of both these awards was indorsed in the strongest terms by all within the arena. It may be mentioned that in this trial, as well as in class 3, where hunters without condition as to weight were tried, some excellent jumping was made by many of the animals. Some, however, which were actually entered as hunters would not face the hurdles at all, or even look at anything in the nature of a jump.

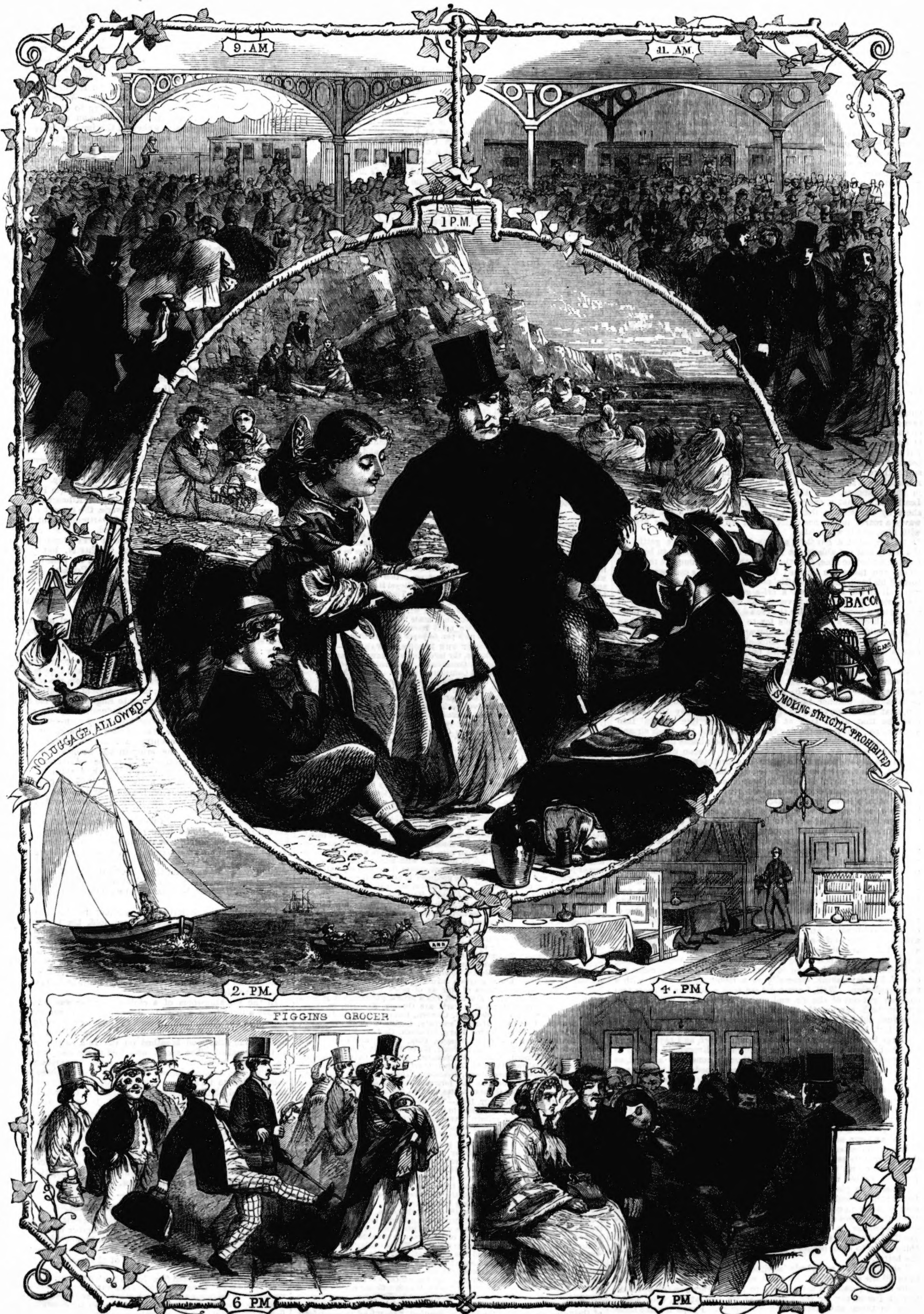
The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the show on Wednesday. Numerous sales of animals have been effected, Count Fleury securing several of the best for the Emperor of the French. The show was visited each day by immense crowds of people, all of whom seemed to take a lively interest in the exhibition. The horses shown in our Engraving are Storm Stayed, Prince Plausible, Voyager; and the first and second prize ponies, Duncan and Tom.





THE HORSE SHOW IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.





9 A.M.: GETTING IN AT LONDON BRIDGE. 11 A.M.: GETTING OUT AT BRIGHTON TERMINUS. 1 P.M.: THE BEACH. 2 P.M.: THE SEA! THE SEA! THE OPEN SEA. 4 P.M.: THE REFRESHMENT-ROOMS ARE NOT DOING MUCH. 6 P.M.: RETURNING TO THE STATION. 7 P.M.: THE JOURNEY HOME.

THE WHITSUN HOLIDAYS: EIGHT HOURS AT THE SEASIDE.



## EIGHT HOURS BY THE SEASIDE.

I COULDN'T sleep a wink all Sunday night for thinkin' of it, becuz we hadn't had not to say a reglar good outin'—not for ever since 'Melina Ann was eighteen mance old, and then it was only to Amptin Court, which the cheenuts trees is beautiful, though not so much run upon as formerly, when the only way as folks could go what I call genteel was in a priva'e wan with a pair of 'orses, as is after all a rumblin' and a tejus journey when there's a frakshus child to nuss, and scrogin in all your light summer things, as is perfect rags before you get home, through the maza and the way other parties trends out the gathars. Not but what accidents is apaulin' with some of these railways; but then, what with drivers as you couldn't always count on for takin' a drop too much, and the way as they would race with their horses a comin' home half tipsy, where was you, as well as bein' upset for a week if even you hadn't no bones broke, with biliousness a ridin' home sideways, which don't seem to suit after a hot tea and 'am with French bread and butter at eightpence a head; as isn't always the best fresh neither.

It was our weddin'-day too, was Whit Monday, as was to be 'a' been Easter, when the first pair as goes to Shoreditch Church is married for nothin'; not as I ever heard of its bein' done, and mother she says no—not after bein' a ratepayer at Oxton for five and twenty year, she says, as would be actin' beggarly she considered to the clergy, which why should they be done out of their perkewits, 'specially in holiday time. So it was put off to Witeautide, eight years ago this very week, as we always like to look back upon once in twelve months at all events.

Well, I knew William wouldn't be late at his club on Saturday; and so I gets a nice nuckle o' ham and some fresh mustard in a clean bottle as was used for furniture polish, which I knew that we should enjoy, with a new crusty loaf an' a 'ard-biled egg or so with a bunch o' cresses or a lettis; for I says to myself, a drop o' beer can always be got, if we take a stone jar with us full of milk-an'-water for the children; and what signifies plates and knives and forks when hunger's the best sauce, as the sayin' is. I must say as it give me a turn, though, when William comes home and says that he means to take me an' the two children to the seaside, as I thought he meant perhaps Gravesend, where I went once to the top of Winmill-'ill, and looked at the ships and the river a movin' about in a great white plate that they called a camelia skewer, which made you that giddy that swings was nothing to. But he says no; Brighton's the ticket, which will give you and the little 'uns a reglar blow-out (he's not always as genteel as I should like, William isn't)—a blow-out, he says, of sea air. I says whatever shall we do for dinner, I says; for Brighton's a regular company-place, where we can't set down nowhere to a nuckle an' no plates an' dishes; but he says, O don't you be afraid about that; jest you get what a wantin', and I'll see to the drinkables, and we'll just go and have dinner on the beach "allfrisky." I says whatever do you mean on the beach, surely there aint no trees as we can dine in; for I thought as he meant there was a big tree with a table and seats all up a staircase in the branches, like the one at Temple Mills down by the Lee River. What a one you are, Becky, he says; no, down on the shore by the seaside, that's where we shall peck a bit, with the waves a roarin' in like one o'clock; so I see it was no use arguin' with him, and it was settled.

But, lor, what a harries it always is, with children a gettin' up that early and not able to eat hardly a bit o' breakfast, to be up at the station before nine, and the way they do scrounge at the place where you takes the tickets! I'm sure William's coat was a most tore off his back, and me awaitin' promiskuous with the carpet-bag as was full of the nuckle an' a 'arf-a-gallon stone bottle. Get into the carriage I thought we never should, as was like the pit door of a theaytar a boxin' night, for the crowd which the people was more jocular, becuz it's more serious for to go to see a pantomime than to go a holiday makin'. Such a uproar as there was at that station I never see, as furried some, through the rudeness of parties a wantin' to get into fust class with only second or third tickets, but the officer he soon 'ad 'em out, as served 'em right for tryin' to come it without no reason. At last we all shakes down, as the sayin' is, and who should be there but old Mrs. Amberley and her married daughter and her husband, which is that pleasant sort o' man, as is a pork butcher in the Commercial-road, and full of his fun, that made everybody laugh, though I must say the tunnels give me that awful turn at fust, as seemed like a goin' into a coal mine; but made the daylight pleasant an' the fresh air and the country agreeable for them as set with their backs to the injian, becuz of the blacks. But, lor! two hours is soon over; and at eleven the injians roars and screams into Brighton; and out we all bundles, such a crowd as I never see; but, bless you! all as merry as grigs, as the sayin' is; and to hear the infants a-crying with hunger and fresh air done your heart good. I says to William, "Lor! what a lovely smell of haddicks," I says; and he bust out laughing, and says, "Why, you silly, it's the sea;" and I says, "For goodness sake, let's get it to it, then; for I've often heard of the billers a-rollin' in like mountains, and the dolphins and the whales a-spoutin', and all sorts o' things;" and I was quite curious; "because," I says, "perhaps there won't be room for to see nothing with all these parties a-go-in' down." But, bless you! we had plenty o' time and plenty o' room too; and down we goes right amongst a great bank o' stones an' shells, as William said was the beach, and the smell of haddicks stronger than ever; and there was the sea, not a-rollin' mountains igh, but all a-curlin', and a-foamin', and a-stretchin' right away into the very sky, as was o' the other side o' the world, as I thought. I never see so far off, not even a-top of 'Amstead-heath; and there was a sound of the waves as a most set me off a-cryin', and then made me feel like as if I'd heard it before somehow in a dream. Oh, it was lovely! and only one thing I couldn't make out, which the song calls the sea deep blue, and it's quite a light blue, as is more becomin', I always think, especially in a ribbin, as goes well with a fair complexion. Well, I never did see such a appetite as them two children got out of the air, and nothin' must do but William must set 'em both barefooted a paddlin' in the waves—as I was fearful of at fust, till I heard as there was no shirks to come an' grab at 'em. But, bless you, the way they ate—I was glad as I'd bought the large nuckle, and not a bit too much, either, as I says we shall have to find out a ninepenny tea somewhere. Everybody seemed to be a preparin' their luggage, which, though none was allowed, as the sayin' is, by the railroad, yet there was a good many baskets and bundles as soon got lighter, as was the same with pipes an' cigars, as the smell wasn't so partickler unpleasant in the open air, but was downright stiffen a comin' down. Well, you won't believe it hardly, but nothin' must do but William goes and makes a bargain with a seafarin' person, with a suit o' clothes like millboards, as we was to go out to sea in a vessel; and if I didn't go and trust myself for a chhillin' an hour, and Mrs. Amberley's daughter that sick in a rowin' boat a-comin' after us that I was forced for to ask William for a drop of sperrits as he'd brought with him, as soon set me to rights; and we went up to what they calls the Downs, and there was a party as wanted me to make one to the Devil's Dyke; but I says No, there's no pleasure in profaneness, as was brought up very different; till I heard as it was really the name of a great hollow space, ever so much bigger than the Vale of Health at 'Amstead, and all the little cottages an' churches a-peepin' about, quite like one o' the costermoramas at the Polytechnic; and I says, No, this ain't no Devil's Dyke, I says; that party wouldn't a been able to do anything equal to it for beauty; and so the sooner they alters the name the better.

I should say as everybody 'ad dined allfrisky; for when we went in to fill the stone bottle, the great room at a handsome public was quite empty; and it's more lively to have a snack in the open air, though I must say for the shrimps as we had at tea, they wasn't equal to them at Gravesend for my money. Praps if some other folks had had a tea they might a' been better from the sea air not a takin' that effect on 'em; and the goin's on of one or two young men as we went back to the station was that conspikyus as I says, thank goodness, William, as you aint a drinkin' man, as was downright low to see a feller a marchin' along in his wife's bonnet and she wearin' his hat, with a great bottle a stickin' out of his pocket.

But we gets along of Mrs. Amberley, as her daughter's husband was that kind a takin' care of the little ones, as was quite pleasant. And the way as we was all a laughin' and talkin' a goin' home, I'm sure I wonder there warnt some evidence, but I didn't hear of none. An' I only wish I was a goin' again next Monday, for them eight hours has done us all a world o' good, and the sea bathin' made 'Melina Anne's legs quite another thing, as ba' salt aint nothin' to, in my opinion.

## DEATH OF "FATHER PROUT."

WE regret to announce the death in Paris, on Friday evening week, of the Rev. Francis Mahony, known throughout Great Britain and Ireland as "Father Prout," one of the most accomplished scholars, one of the wittiest and most brilliant writers, and one of the most genial men of his day. Born in Ireland about 1805 and educated in Jesuit colleges in France and the University of Rome, Mahony was a Roman Catholic Irishman of the old school. It was not very likely that a man of his stamp would long perform clerical functions in Ireland, and he early took to literature, accepting an appointment on the staff of *Fraser's Magazine* upon the invitation of Dr. Maginn. A colleague of some of the brightest spirits in London, he was fully their equal in wit and humour—probably their superior in classical scholarship. "Father Prout's" essays in *Fraser* were eminently popular, and were published in a collected form in 1836. In 1860 they were republished, with etchings by MacIver. Mr. Mahony also contributed some of the earliest and best papers which appeared in *Bentley's Miscellany* in 1837, and subsequently travelled for some years in Hungary, Asia Minor, Greece, and Egypt. In 1847 he accepted from Mr. Dickens the post of correspondent of the *Daily News* in Rome, and in 1849 published his letters, which were full of ardent zeal for the Italian cause, under the title of "Facts and Figures from Italy." He was for many years—indeed, until about a month ago—Paris correspondent of the *Globe*; and it is well known that to his letters that paper owes much of its attractiveness. No one could fail to recognise his style—brimful of scholarly allusions culled from all sorts of unheard-of authors, who were familiar enough to him—witty, caustic, spiced here and there with sly quotation from Irish ballads—and yet as to facts so cautious, so trustworthy, and so transparently honest.

Mr. Mahony had long lived in Paris, and died there, in the Rue des Moulins, but occasionally he came to London; and his wit and scholarship, as well as the higher qualities of the heart, made him universally popular in the society which he frequented.

He was a vigorous and determined opponent of the Ultramontane school, with which the quondam Irish Curate had very scant sympathy indeed, as Archbishop M'Hale knew, and Archbishop Cullen knows well enough. But to show how clever Irishmen can cherish an *esprit de corps*, and relish the fun of political and ecclesiastical opponents, it has been often told—we believe with truth—how when some solemn priest mentioned to Archbishop M'Hale the name of the ex-priest Mahony with bitter commination, the Archbishop instantly checked him, and said that, after all, the Irishman who wrote "Father Prout's" papers was an honour to his country.

THE TITLE "ROYAL HIGHNESS."—A correspondent calls our attention to the fact that we have spoken of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and his sister, Princess Mary, by the style and title of Royal Highness, which he says is wrong, because, as he says, "Royal Highness belongs to the family born of the reigning Monarch" and to those persons upon whom the reigning Monarch may confer the honour. Well, we have looked into "Debrett," who is generally regarded as something of an authority on such subjects, and he describes the Duke of Cambridge as "His Royal Highness," and ranks him, of course, among peers of the blood royal. That, to our minds, is sufficient justification of a practice which we followed in common with every newspaper in the country. We are always willing to be corrected when wrong, particularly when the correction is made in the gentlemanly tone of our correspondent's letter; but we must recommend him to "mend his instance," and make sure ere he puts pen to paper another time.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE INFORMER WARNER.—A desperate attempt to assassinate Warner, the informer who gave evidence against the Fenians at the Cork Special Commission, was made early on Monday morning, at Houth, by a returned Confederate soldier. Warner is in a most dangerous state. It appears that the would-be assassin struck Warner with a dagger in the neck, inflicting a deep wound. A scuffle ensued, in which the assailant was deprived of his coat and succeeded in getting off. The coat contained a six-barrel revolver, each chamber of which was loaded with two balls. Soon afterwards the police succeeded in arresting a man named O'Connor, who was in America for seven years. He gave his name as Lurney, but was identified as James O'Connor, who had attacked Warner. He has been fully committed for trial. The prisoner answers in every particular the description given in the police notice of Kearney, who is charged with the murder of Constable O'Neill, and the police believe he is the same person.

THE SHORT MAN'S CONTRIVANCE.—A farmer-general, named Grimod de la Reyniere, was conspicuous in his character, if only by dint of his hair, which was curled and puffed to a breadth and height that rendered the putting on of his hat an impossibility. A short man, who occupied the seat behind him at an opera, finding the view completely obstructed, contrived little by little to perforate a seeing-place through the mass with his fingers. Grimod de la Reyniere never stirred during the operation or the performance, but, when the piece terminated, he drew a comb from his pocket and calmly presented it to the gentleman with these words:—"Monsieur, I have permitted you to see the ballet at your ease, not to interfere with my amusement; it is now your turn not to interfere with mine: I am going to a supper-party; you must see that I cannot appear there with my hair in its present state, and you will have the goodness to arrange it properly, or tomorrow we must cross words." The peaceful alternative was laughingly accepted, and they parted friends.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

THE FORTRESSES OF GERMANY.—The federal fortresses are Landau, occupied in time of peace by Bavarian troops, and in time of war by the contingents of Bavaria, Schwarzenburg-Sonderhausen, and Schwarzenburg-Rudolstadt, Hohenzollern (Prussia), Lichtenstein, and Reuss. Luxembourg, occupied in time of peace by the troops of Luxembourg and of Prussia; in time of war by Prussia, Luxembourg, Waldeck, Lippe, and Schaumburg Lippe. Mayence in time of peace is garrisoned by Austria, Prussia, and Grand Ducal Hesse; in time of war by Austria, Prussia, Saxo-Weimer, Meiningen, Coburg-Gotha, Oldenburg, Anhalt, and Hesse-Homburg. Rastadt at all times has a garrison furnished by Austria, Prussia, and Baden. Ulm receives in times of war as of peace troops from Austria, Bavaria, and Wirtemberg. Frankfurt has a federal garrison, but is not a fortress. The strong places of Austria are Olmutz, Kufstein, Salzburg, Prague, Josephstadt, Theresienstadt, Comorn, Peterwarden, Breda, Carlsburg, Fogaras, Cronstadt, Maros Vasarehy, Carlsstadt, Arad, Temesvar, Cracow, Przemyel, Bwod, Cetinje, Esseg, Gradiska, Cattaro, Knin, Ragusa, Zara, Mantua, Verona, Legnago, Ossepo, Pola, Venice, and Palma. The Prussian fortresses are Sarrelouis, Coblenz, Ehrenbreitstein, Cologne, Juliers, Deutz, Wesel, Minden, Erfurt, Magdeburg, Spandau, Custrin, Stettin, Swinemunde, Stralsund, Colburg, Glogau, Cosel, Glatz, Schweidnitz (which is about to be raised), Neisse, Posen, Grandeur, Thorn, Dantzig, Pillau, and Konigsberg. Bavaria possesses the fortresses of Ingolstadt, Passau, and Gemersheim. The other German States have no fortresses.

THE SALMON FISHERY ACT, 1865.—The Special Commissioners appointed under the Salmon Fishery Act, 1865, to inquire into the legality of the fixed nets and engines in the salmon rivers of England have completed their sittings at Newport and Chepstow for the UK and Wye estuaries and portions of the Severn estuary, and have delivered some important decisions bearing on the question of the use of putchers in the tideway of those rivers for taking salmon. A claim made by the Duke of Beaufort to a fishery at Redwick, on the Severn estuary, was one which guided numerous other cases, and the Chief Commissioner, in delivering judgment, said it had been proved that the Duke had had from time immemorial a right to use a rank of pults—a large wicker contrivance for taking small fish, and which some times took salmon—and that some time between 1843 and 1848 putchers—a smaller wicker contrivance used solely for taking salmon—had been introduced and used at 250 yards' distance from the site of the pults. The Commissioners found that fishing by means of putchers was a different mode of fishing from that by pults. The fishery right was claimed under a charter of Edward I., who confirmed a grant by the Earl of Pembroke to the abbot and monks of Tintern Abbey of lands and a fishery right. No particular user, however, was mentioned in the grant, and the memorial user only proved a right to fish by pults. They decided that the right to use one mode of fishing in a navigable river could not authorise the use of a different mode of fishing established on a different site, even though the site (as was not the case here) were within the limits of the several fishery, if such different mode was also a derogation of Magna Charta and the public right. They considered a grant by the Crown of a pults fishery did not include a putcher fishery. The result of their opinion was, that the Duke of Beaufort was entitled to a certificate for the pults only, but that the 200 putchers now in use were illegal and must be at once removed. Similar decisions were pronounced in regard to other claims of a like nature. In one called the Goldcliff fishery, belonging to Eton College, some thousand pults were claimed. These the Commissioners decided were all illegal, but they authorised the use of 127 pults in the same fishery. The effect of these decisions will be that all the putchers at the mouth of the Uck will have to be removed.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. DISRAELI, in his long and eloquent speech upon the second reading of the Redistribution of Seats Bill, defended the small boroughs as gateways through which men unknown to fame, but with knowledge of special subjects likely to be very useful in legislating thereon, can enter the House, and he gave us as examples of these men Sir James Weir Hogg, Sir John Willoughby, Mr. Henry Willoughby, and Mr. Henry Thoby Prinsep. These men, he said, were all well versed in Indian affairs, and all sat for small boroughs; and those who heard his speech will remember how dramatically and effectively he delivered this part of it. "Sir James Hogg," said he, "was member for Honiton, and Honiton you are going to disfranchise. Sir John Willoughby sat for Leominster, and Leominster you are going to disfranchise. Mr. Prinsep sat for Harwich, and Harwich you are going to disfranchise." The Conservatives cheered this immensely, and no doubt they deemed it perfectly conclusive. "There, you see! If you abolish these small boroughs, such men as these—so useful, so essential—these old Indians, with their extensive and accurate knowledge of India, its Government, language, polity, law, &c., never could get into the House." Such was the meaning of this cheering. Well, upon the subject of these old Indians I could say much, but forbear to say more than this: that they do import knowledge of Indian subjects into our Indian debates cannot be denied; but it has always been a matter of surprise how little knowledge they give us, and many of them are very narrow in their views, and not a few have been bad jobbers, and more ready to impede than to defend reform; but let that pass. Let us see, in default of other interesting subjects to write about, how far the Parliamentary history of these gentlemen illustrates Mr. Disraeli's theory. Sir James Weir Hogg entered Parliament in 1834 through Beverley, and sat for that borough for three years; but Beverley is not a small borough: it has a population of over 10,000 persons, and more than 1200 electors. At the general election, in 1847, Sir James was returned for Honiton, but Beverley did not reject Sir James, for he did not present himself as a candidate. For Honiton he sat ten years. Honiton is a small borough, but when he was elected by Honiton Sir James was well known. But, now, mark! if Honiton returned Sir James and thus illustrated Mr. Disraeli's position, Honiton, per contra, in 1857, rejected him. Sir John Willoughby is a still worse illustration of the theory than Sir James Hogg. In 1852, Sir John (then Mr.) Willoughby courted the electors of Leominster, but was rejected; said electors preferring Mr. Arkwright and J. G. Phillimore. In 1857 Leominster relented, and returned Mr. Willoughby. But how long did Mr. Willoughby sit in Parliament? Little more than a year. In October, 1858, he was appointed member of the new Indian Council, salary, £1000 a-year. Leominster, then, though it helped Mr. Willoughby into a good berth, did not, by sending him to Parliament, contribute to the House much knowledge of Indian affairs. And now for Mr. Prinsep. This gentleman's parliamentary history is curious. He first (in 1844) tried to get into Parliament through the respectable Kilmarnock boroughs, but was stopped by Mr. Pleydell Bouverie, the present member. In 1845, he tried the smaller borough of Dartmouth, but failed. In 1847, he wooed Dover and was rejected. In 1851, he stood for Harwich and got in, but on petition it was found that he was not qualified. In 1852, he solicited Colchester, but polled only ninety-eight votes. In 1857, at Barnstable, he polled only thirty-five; and here ended the history of Mr. Prinsep. Mr. Disraeli told us that he sat for Harwich—yes, for about two months; and during these two months, only, was he in Parliament. Clearly, then, whatever one may think of Mr. Disraeli's theory, his illustrations are not to the point.

Sir Morton Peto's business is going on as usual, and will go on, notwithstanding his "stoppage." It appears that he stopped payment simply for the want of ready money, not for the want of property: he had that in sufficiency, but he had not the representative of it which we call money. I have learned on good authority that he has of property a million more than he will require to pay his debts, which one is glad to hear; for, apart from the respect which everyone feels for Sir Morton, he is a national institution, the overthrow of which would be disastrous to England. To me Sir Morton is a wonder. His energy is simply indomitable. He employs, in conjunction with others, I forget how many men—say 30,000, that is enough, though I believe that is under the mark. He has set his mark upon almost every country in Europe. It was he who laid down the railway for the army in the Crimea; and I believe that he was the contractor for the Atlantic and Great Western of Canada, or the Grand Trunk, I am not sure which. And with all this he is an author. In 1863 he gave us an 8vo volume of over 400 pages on taxation, and he has just sent forth another of the same size on "The Resources and Prospects of America, ascertained during a visit to the States in the Autumn of 1865." And, further, he is a member of Parliament, and attends to his duties in the House more punctually than many men whom I know, who have nothing in the world to do besides. Sir Morton would have made a good General. Kinglake says that "the Battle of the Alma gave the allies Sebastopol, upon condition that they would lay instant hands on the prize." Had Sir Morton been at the head of the allied armies, that is just what he would have done, not wintered on the road, but rushed forward and laid instant hands on the prize.

I hear that the Reform Bills are not to slip into Committee without a battle. Once more, I am told, the Conservatives are to try a fall with the Government. A notice of motion, I hear, is to be placed on the books, on which battle is to be joined. It is hoped that all the Liberals whose boroughs are to be disfranchised, or partially disfranchised, will vote for the amendment. In that case the Government must be defeated. I give this as a current rumour, and not as an ascertained fact. There is, however, certainly some move afoot.

In the smoking-room of a club a member was leaning over to receive a light from a friend. Jones, who had been contemplating himself in the glass, with his back to the others, here turned himself round. "What a fuss about a light. See me light my pipe!" He held it out filled, and breathed on it. In a moment sparks arose, and he smoked. The secret was told to me many months ago by an eminent chemist. There are several "pyrophores," or fire-carrying combinations known to science. One of these is pure lead, comminuted to its atoms. Everyone who has ever cast a bullet or melted a bad shilling knows how brilliant is the metal at first, and how rapidly it oxidizes, or turns dirty. If lead be dissolved in acid it becomes minutely subdivided, consequently exposes the utmost possible surface to the action of oxygen in air or moisture. The lead granules thus obtained are bottled up. A small quantity of the powder may then be shaken over the tobacco in a pipe; and when the social Mephistophiles breathe thereon the required result is at once produced. I do not recommend the experiment to anyone unaccustomed to chemical manipulation. It might happen to be unsatisfactory, not to say dangerous.

## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

The political article of the *Fortnightly Review* is always good—unflinching, and yet always kind. The number before me (May 15) is no exception; but it contains as odd a blunder, I think, as I ever saw. It concludes a criticism of Mr. Gladstone's great Reform speech (the reply, on the last night of the debate) in the following words:—

The conclusion, borrowed from Longfellow's "Excelsior," could hardly be considered happy. In an adaptation of this sort, taken as the climax of a great speech, where the reason and the feelings of the hearers are to receive their final enthralment by the orator, there ought to be all the elements of strength—first, great weight from the authority of the author, nobleness of sentiment, practical wisdom, and, if possible, the argument from the success of the course adopted.

But in this case all the qualities are absent, save one. The author is a charming, but second-rate, rather maudlin American poet; and the moral of the poem is that we should try after an unattainable excellence, even with the certainty that we shall perish in the attempt. In this there is no practical wisdom and no success; there is only a certain vague nobleness of



sentiment, which some may think not sufficiently under the guidance of reason and discretion.

When I had read thus far, I thought to myself, "What is the man up to? There is not the shadow of the shade of the phantom of a ghost of an excuse for all this." There is nothing in Mr. Gladstone's peroration to remind one of "Excelsior;" you might as well say it was founded on "Vital Spark." But I read a little further:—

As the rash and unhappy youth Excelsior lies dead in the snow, we don't feel at all sure that the parties who grasp his standard and carry it forward are not the people whom he left with some disdain behind him pursuing the ordinary duties of life, and contented with quiet progress.

Here, you see, the Justice gives his reasons, contrary to the well-known counsel. If he had only given his decision we might have thought him a little abroad, but now he is "sold." In which part of "Excelsior" does somebody "grasp the standard" and carry it forward? In none, unless Mr. Longfellow has recently altered the poem; and, if he has done so, he has simply spoiled it. Nothing can be more unlikely than that he should do so, and it is also unlikely that he should have done it without my falling in with the additional verses. The end of "Excelsior," as all the world has known it any time this twenty years, is the verse in which the dying cry of the youth is echoed from heaven:—

There, in the twilight, cold and grey,  
Lifeless, but beautiful, he lay,  
While from the sky, serene and far,  
A voice fell like a falling star—Excelsior!

an ending so natural, so true, so pathetic, and so full of meaning, that I cannot conceive even a poet of Longfellow's didactic tendencies spoiling it by any addition. I feel no scruple in pointing out this error, because the tone of the passage is a little flippant, "superior," and wrong. The "youth" in the poem was neither "rash" nor "unhappy;" nor did he leave anybody behind him "with some disdain." This is almost impudently wrong; for I distinctly remember that it is with a sigh of regret and a tear of passion that the flag-bearer turns from the "household fires" and all the rest of it.

Fortnightly, however, is so rarely wrong that it can well afford, by way of change, to make a mistake. What an admirable summary and criticism of Victor Hugo's new novel is that by the editor! I have seen nothing so succinct, and nothing more readable; but, though it cannot be said Mr. Lewes ever writes anything untrue of Victor Hugo, one almost feels that he is a little "hard upon" him. There are, indeed, three people with respect to whom that phrase comes naturally to the lips in reading Mr. Lewes. One I do not name; the other is Cousin; Victor Hugo is the third. Professor Bain's "Historical View of the Theories of the Soul," and Mr. Seebohm on "The Oxford Reformers of 1498," are beyond praise. Without more detail, it is an excellent number.

Everybody must have noticed the advertisement fight between Murray and Macmillan about the *Quarterly* on "Ecce Homo." All I can say is, that I think Murray's protest was quite unnecessary, and that Macmillan advertised not only with perfect fairness, but with a sound discretion. I quite understood the scrap from the *Quarterly*, and only a very thick-headed person could have mistaken its meaning.

I learn that Mr. Sutherland Edwards has a new novel in the press, which will be ready for issue in a few days. It is in three volumes, is entitled "The Three Louises," and will be published by Messrs. Tinsley.

I am glad to find that the National Life-boat Institution has issued a new edition of its excellent little pamphlet, entitled "Instructions for the Management of Open Boats in Heavy Surfs and Broken Water," to which have been added the "Instructions for the Restoration of the Apparently Drowned," published under the auspices of the institution some time ago. The season for seaside and other outdoor recreation is approaching; and, as many amateur mariners will soon be essaying their skill in boatcraft, these instructions will be found conducive at once to comfort, success, and, above all, safety. We recommend all would-be sailors to obtain a copy of this little manual—it only costs sixpence—and to carefully study it. I may add that various foreign maritime Governments have deemed the contents of the pamphlet of so much importance as to have it translated into their own languages; and that the Admiralty has ordered 1000 copies for circulation in her Majesty's Fleet and in the coastguard service. Better evidence of the value of the brochure, and of the estimation in which it is held, could not be afforded.

#### THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean appeared, on Thursday week, at the PRINCESS, as Cardinal Wolsey and Queen Katharine in "Henry VIII." The welcome they received was overpowering. Peal of applause followed peal, until the theatre shook, metaphorically, and Mr. Charles Kean shook, literally; indeed, such an ovation was enough to startle the nerves of a stoic. The Shakespearean efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean are familiar to the public of London, and it would be ungracious on the first night of their return—when they were both evidently suffering from extreme nervousness, and placards posted about the theatre informed the audience that, notwithstanding indisposition, Mrs. Charles Kean would appear, as advertised—to enter into any detailed criticism. It is enough to say that both Mr. and Mrs. Kean evinced their thorough mastery over the art of elocution. Miss Chapman, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. George Everett, who accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Kean in their professional voyage round the world, appeared as Anne Boleyn, Cromwell, and the Earl of Surrey; and Mr. Mead played Buckingham with considerable power. The play has been revived with many of the scenic effects and accessories which so largely helped its popularity when produced under the management of Mr. Kean some few years ago; and the famous tableau of the "Vision of Queen Katharine" has been restored with all its original poetic and pictorial beauty.

At the LYCEUM, Mr. Fechter has revived the admirable supernatural drama of "The Corsican Brothers." Mr. Fechter, who was the original "twin" Dei Franchi in Paris (for everybody knows that "The Corsican Brothers" is a translation—as, indeed, what piece is not?), has turned the drama round—so to speak—as far as its singular "simultaneous" construction goes. Thus, what was the second act at the Princess, when Mr. Kean was the star twins, is now the first act at the Lyceum. The duel between Louis dei Franchi and Chateau-Renaud is seen by the audience before they are introduced to Corsica and the elder twin, if I may be allowed a "bull." The first act of the Princess's piece is the second of the new Lyceum version, and the third act remains *in statu quo ante Fechter*. I trust that I have explained this comprehensively, although I must confess that with so much first that was second, second that used to be first, third that is still third, and action that is at the same time "simultaneous" and at different periods, I am somewhat confused. Mr. Fechter plays the Brothers with that mingled tenderness and tragic that has stamped him the most refined, graceful, and romantic of melodramatic actors; and in the last act especially he roused the sympathies and sensibilities of that critical, artistic, and literary section of the public, who make attendance at Lyceum "first nights" a point of honour. Mr. Emery, as the rough, violent Orlando; and Mr. Harry Widdicombe, as the quarrelsome Colonna, acted admirably. Why will not good actors play "small" parts, as they call them, and so contribute to the proper production of a play and the pleasure of the public which supports the theatre? Imagine an officer objecting to this duty or that because it was not what he liked, or considered good enough for him. By their energetic and excellent performances, Mr. Emery and Mr. Widdicombe made a marked impression upon a highly-cultivated auditory. No actor should wish to play Coriolanus every night. Miss Henrade evinced great spirit as Emile De Lesparre; and Mrs. Ternan, as the mother of the Franchi, displayed the dignity without the pedantry of that *vieille école* that is always *bonne école*. Mr. George Jordan, though he looked gallant and manly, was too heavy in voice and manner for the rôle of Chateau-Renaud. Mr. Herman Vezin played De Montgrison most agreeably. Possibly Mr. Vezin may not esteem the compliment; but unnatural declamation, and impossible gesture—and these are the

principal requirements for what is called "legitimate tragedy"—are easier of acquirement than a smooth and natural manner, a polished agreeability, and absence of gesticulation. The scenery was equal to the high standard the Lyceum has raised for itself, the great effects being the interior of the Grand Opera during the carnival masked ball, and the snow-covered clearing in the forest of Fontainebleau, which is a wonderful piece of scenic illusion, it is so airy, frosty, and forest-like. The supernatural effects are produced in a different manner to that to which a ghost-loving public has been accustomed; and though the Lyceum spectacle occupies a shorter time in appearing and disappearing than those at the Princess's, they are highly effective. Still, I think the audience of Monday last would have preferred the old style of ghost who first exhibited the ghost of his hair upon the floor, and took a ten minutes slide before the ghosts of his patent leather boots stood revealed in all their ghastly polished and unearthly brightness. If it be a pleasurable sensation to feel your flesh "crawl," it should crawl for at least ten minutes; but this is an age of rapid locomotion, and even ghosts travel faster than they used to do.

A posthumous play is always a tender thing to treat of. One can either praise it madly or mourn over it tenderly, as do hero worshipers when compelled to admit that their particular pet man-god once burnt and slaughtered the dwellers in a large city without any good military or diplomatic cause for fire or sword. "Alexina; or, True unto Death," which was produced at the STRAND THEATRE on Whit Monday, is a two-act drama by the late Sheridan Knowles, whose plays, some thirty years ago, were considered masterpieces of dramatic poetry—and which plays are, occasionally, acted now. "Alexina" is not likely to add to the reputation of the author; still less is it likely to hold the stage long. The story is founded on the plot of a very capital old melodrama of the "blood-and-dagger" school, called "Raymond and Agnes," with occasional incidents that remind old playgoers of "The Sergeant's Wife;" there is a touch of Juliet when she contemplates the horrors of the chancel-house; and the final "tableau" is strongly suggestive of "Fra Diavolo." The dialogue is high-faloot—almost sky-high-faloot—professes to be in blank verse, and is full of the mock quaintness, sham quip, and trick of repetition which procured for the author during his lifetime the reputation of a poet. The drama is beautifully mounted and spiritedly acted; but it is not in the power of Mr. C. Fenton's brush, nor of Miss Ada Swanborough, or Mr. Price, or Mr. Parselle, or Mr. Thorne, who played the principal parts, to make old incidents look like new, or to restore to us the tastes of our grandfathers. The pit and gallery of Whit Monday applauded the dark scenes, the dark lanterns, and the obscure similes to the echo. But the days of roadside-inn murder and romance are gone. In the present practical and scoffing age, even Gammer Gurton's needle would not prove attractive; and the pieces made popular at the commencement of this century by Messrs. Rowbotham, Huntley, and Cobham, of the Royal Coburg Theatre, will not find favour on the Strand side of Waterloo Bridge.

At the PRINCE OF WALES'S, Miss Louisa Moore has made her appearance in the farce of the "Bonnie Fish-Wife" with considerable effect. Mr. John Clarke, as Galters, is as characteristic and comic as ever. How time flies! Who would think that it is seven years ago since this popular farce was first produced?

#### FINE ARTS.

##### THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

##### [THIRD NOTICE.]

WE resume our notice with the West Room, which contains some of the best pictures of the year. Mr. Burgess's "Selling Fans at a Spanish Fair" (350) fully realises the promise held out by "Bravo, Toro!" last year. The canvas brims over with character and humour, and the painting is brilliant without gaudiness, and finished without over-detail. It would require more space than we can afford even for so excellent a work to tell the stories which are so plain to read in the various figures, from the group of three, which number, in the opinion of one, is clearly "no company," to the roguish old pedlar in the centre and the bewitching gipsy in the background, begging for a new fan of her doubtful, and perhaps impudicous, cavalier. Mr. E. Nicol's "Paying the Rent" (335) is another work which claims high mention for the same qualities that distinguish Mr. Burgess's picture. The faces are all admirable, but we would single out for special notice the vividly lifelike expression of the woman in the centre.

Mr. Holt is a rapidly rising artist. From the time of his "Turned out of Church" we have watched his progress with care and pleasure, and are glad to find him still advancing in "The Ordeal" (421), which tells cleverly and touchingly, without claptrap, the old story of the anxious painter and the hesitating purchaser. Mr. Poynter, whose "Roman Sentinel" attracted so much attention last year, contents himself this time with a small and unpretentious canvas "Offerings to Isis" (458), a young slave bearing gifts to the altar of the Egyptian-Roman deity. It is a careful and able picture, but so very modest in dimensions that, although we can admire Mr. Poynter's strength of mind and self-repression, we doubt whether it would not have been wiser to aspire more boldly after last year's success.

Mr. A. Moore's "Shulamite" (354) is execrably placed, but not even the incompetency of the hanging committee can prevent our seeing what very high qualities of drawing it possesses in combination with a peculiarly subdued tone of colour, which, exquisite as it is in itself, is somewhat killed by the glare around it. Mr. Armstrong is another artist who paints in this under-key. His "Morning" (432), however, shows a marked improvement in this respect, which gives his figures a solidity they have hitherto wanted.

To judge from the crowd before it, Mr. Wells's "Volunteers at a Firing-Point" (374) is one of the most important pictures in this room, but the critic will hardly agree in the common verdict. The drawing of the figures is good, the likenesses are good, and the arrangement is skilful; but the subject is not artistic, and the picture seems painted to sell. It may interest volunteers and rifle-shots, but to the connoisseur it will seem painted for the engraver only, and will appear a waste of such great and unquestionable talent as Mr. Wells's. Mr. Calderon's picture in this room is a reminiscence of French travel—"On the Banks of the Clain" (369), where a party of pretty French laundresses are employed in washing their linen. It is a painting in Mr. Calderon's happiest style—free, yet correct in drawing; powerful, yet not exaggerated in colour. A somewhat similar subject, "La Lavandaja" (400), by Mr. Lehmann, though it will not bear comparison with the last-named work, is distinguishable for much grace and great charm of colour.

Mr. Marks's "My Lady's Page in Disgrace" (393) is hardly as good as his other picture, but contains much that is meritorious. Mr. Barwell's "Fitting" (404) does not altogether satisfy us—there is too strong a resemblance to the least happy passages of Mr. Faed's work. Mr. Prinsep's large "Festa di Lido" (339) is very heavy in colour, and not altogether pleasing in composition. It lacks the "everlasting wash of air," the sun-warm atmosphere of Italy. "Roma vivente e Roma morta" (352), by Mr. Halliday, is solidly painted, and, though small and unpretentious, shows signs of improvement. Mr. Harling, who had some excellent little studies of Italy last year, gives us another reminiscence in this exhibition, "The Priest's Parlour, Capri" (435), a delightful little work, abounding in good points. A picture entitled "The future still hides in its gladness and sorrow" (342), possesses some excellent qualities of colour, and appears to be deserving of a better place than has been awarded it. Mr. McTaggart's "Castles of Sand" (422) is a truthful bit of homely seaside nature, very carefully painted. Mr. Hardy gives us two more of his quaint but real studies of domestic life. "The Dismayed Artist" (433) is a humorous treatment of the distress of a painter, whose care in sketching the old inn nook of a cottage has induced the good woman of the house to bestow a touch of whitewash on it, "to make it look respectable and clean for the gentleman!" "The Mouse-trap" (449) shows a party of juveniles peeping anxiously round the corner to watch the working of the new trap, with a capital play of expression on the various faces.

"Returning from Market" (456), by Mr. Fyfe, is also a meritorious picture.

"Miss Lily's Carriage Stops the Way" (334) shows Mr. Hayllar to advantage. The figure of the little girl in her ball-dress is simply charming, and the colour is not overdone, as it is at times in Mr. Hayllar's works. Mr. Leelle makes a great stride forward with his "Clarissa" (410), a single figure walking by the most of an old house. There is a most pleasing harmony and repose in both colour and arrangement in this picture, which will no doubt do much to establish the rapidly-rising fame of this worthy son of a worthy sire.

Mr. Fitzgerald's "Fairy Lake" (412) is a gem—an exquisite combination of a poetic imagination and a masterly management of colour. Although we have on more than one occasion been attracted by his delicate fancies and brilliant manipulation, we have never seen Mr. Fitzgerald to such advantage as in this truly charming work.

Mr. Dicey's "Ménagère Picarde" (326) is a work of remarkable merit. It shows a maturity of style and a mastery of the technicalities that would seem to promise great things. We shall look with interest for further examples of Mr. Dicey's skill; indeed, we are surprised that we have not met with his work before; but the evidence this picture displays of the influence of the French school suggests that he may not have previously exhibited in England.

Mr. Fisk's subject is an admirable one, and he has done great things with it, though it might fairly tax his powers to treat the crowd "Waiting for the *Moniteur* detailing the Arrest of Robespierre" (394). Without making his picture too stagey, Mr. Fisk has introduced considerable variety and plenty of incident into the group. This picture is hardly as large as those we have had from him of late years, which is rather a matter of regret, for there are not too many artists who can successfully cope with large canvases so successfully. Selecting the same class of incidents and belonging to the same school as Mr. Ward, Mr. Fisk has a wiser eye for colour and greater correctness of drawing. Mr. J. Faed's "Wappenschaw" (429) is a very lifelike and clever painting of a not very interesting subject. Mr. Barker's "Marguerite" (430) is exaggerated in colour and in expression; while Mr. Crowe's "Reynolds" (394) is tame in conception, weak in drawing, and poor in tone. Mrs. Ward's "Palissy" (385) shows some of the worst faults of her husband's style, but it also contains some passages better than his. Mr. Hughes seems each year to be sinking more rapidly into the mere colourist. The figures in his "Good Night" (359) and "Guarded Bower" (457) are stiff and lifeless, the faces void of expression or interest. Were it not for little snatches of real painting in his glimpses of distance and his backgrounds, his works might pass for studies from wax figures.

This room contains three excellent specimens (368, 351, 431) of Mr. Ansell's well-known handling of Spanish life. Among the landscapes one of the first to attract notice (despite the bad hanging it has met with) is M. Mignot's "Under the Equator" (367), rich in the luxuriant growth of the tropics and bathed in the warm, steaming atmosphere of the sultry climes which he paints with such appreciation and poetic feeling. An equally truthful resort of nature is Mr. Vicat Cole's "Evening Rest" (403), a thoroughly English scene, with a still pool just rippled here and there by the soft breath of the wind that wakes at sundown. The exhibition is worth a visit this year if only for the sake of seeing this picture.

In comparison with this marvellous work may be noticed the "Brow of the Hill" (408), by Mr. Linnell, sen., a thoroughly studio-made scene—effective and attractive, but utterly unreal. Yet it has merit, and would be exceedingly good if its clouds were like clouds, its trees like trees, its soil like soil, and its horses like horses.

"A Sheep-walk up a Windy Wold" (336), by Mr. F. Walton, is a clever little work, unquestionably painted from nature; and the same may be said of Mr. Pitt's "Creek on the Fal" (364) and Mr. Ascroft's glimpse of "Fairlight Glen" (448). Mr. Edwards, as unfairly placed as usual, has a meritorious study of the Cornish coast, "Nightfall, Scilly Isles" (401), painted with the perseverance and patience we might expect of one who is not discouraged by the systematic slight he receives at the hands of the hangers of the Academy. Mr. Mark Anthony's "Peace of the Valley" (380) is painted with his accustomed honesty and fidelity. Few artists have a truer hold of nature than Mr. Anthony. "A Winter Sunset on the Thames" (462), by Mr. Danby, is a rich bit of colour, and is noticeable for well-painted light.

Mr. Cooke is represented in this room by a fine Venetian view, "The Campanile" (338), and an admirable picture of some of his favourite "Scheveling Pincks" (411) aground, at low water. Mr. Gill's "Corra Linn" (325) is painted with considerable force. Mr. Gill can paint tumbling water as well as most artists; indeed, he has been almost unrivalled until this year, when Mr. Graham's wonderful "Spate in the Highlands" (373) has carried all before it. In this last-named remarkable picture Mr. Graham gives evidence of a power which should place him amongst our foremost landscape-painters. He has not only had the appreciation to learn the wonderful freaks of effect which Nature dashes off, so to speak, among the wilds, but he has the courage to paint it, and to paint it so truthfully that some of his critics have found fault with his work where it is most faithful.

Mr. H. Moore, whose "Brading Down" (395) should not be passed over, exhibits a study of sea, which has been seldom if ever surpassed for fidelity, in his "Pilot Cutter" (321). This, however, is, unfortunately, another of the really good pictures that have been sent up to the ceiling to make room for the inferior and uninteresting works of the privileged few. Mr. Melby, in his "Drifting on the Rocks, Land's End" (327), paints water in his well-known style. The sea has few, if any, portrayals so faithful as Mr. Melby. His waves are admirably modelled, and their colour and translucency are rendered to perfection.

Mr. Cooper gives us one of his accustomed cattle-pieces in "The Shepherd's Sabbath" (398), and Mr. Davis exhibits "Spring-ploughing at Artois" (415), a picture which, while it abounds in good points and contains much that is as original as it is true, yet reminds us almost too strongly of Rosa Bonheur.

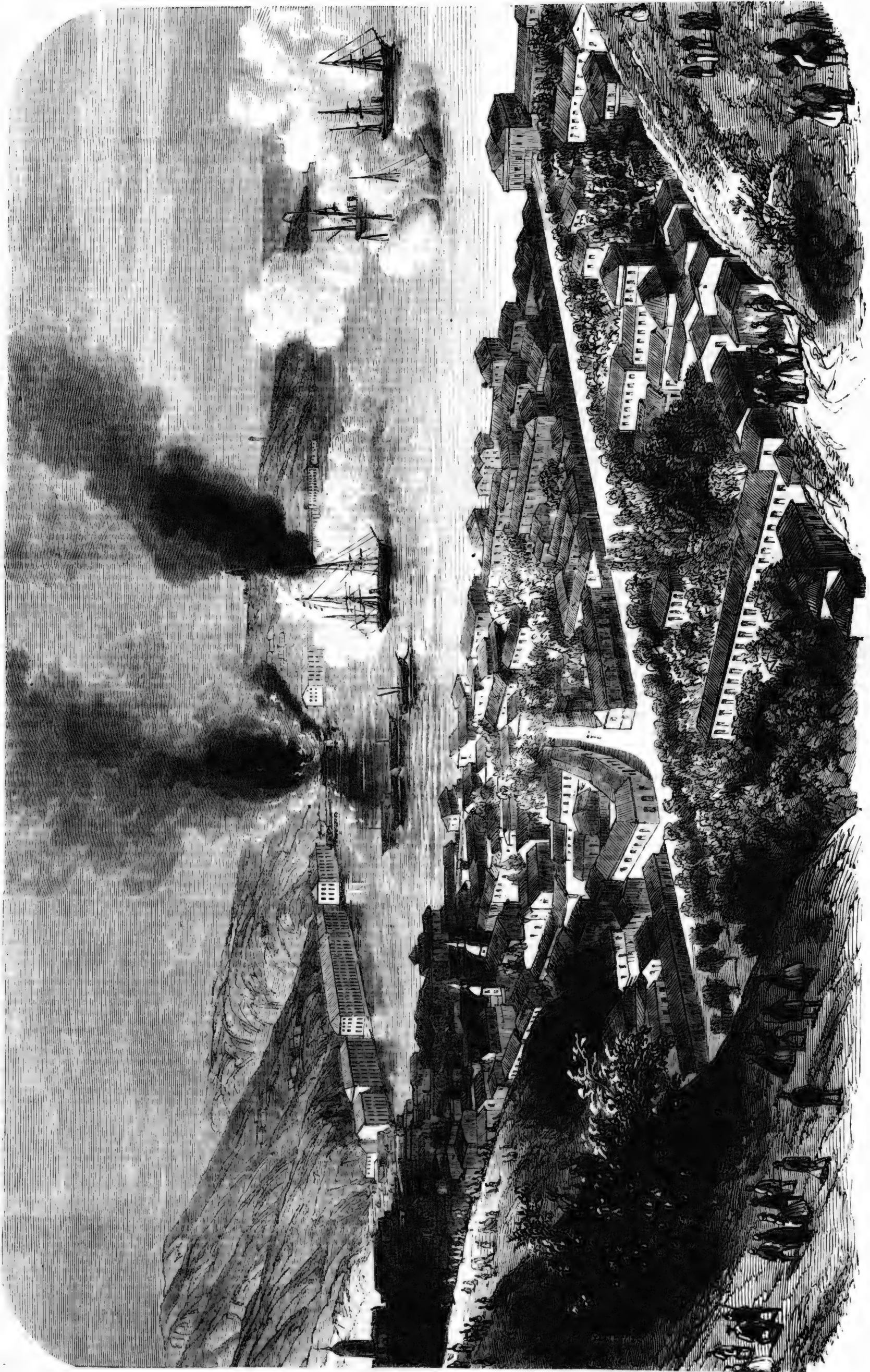
Miss Mairie has in this room some bright but real flower-painting, of which the "Cactus" (370) is a favourable specimen.

In portraiture we have Mr. Ballantyne's picture of "Maclise in his Fresco" (414) (of which we had occasion to speak some time since); a pleasing likeness of a young Italian lady (324), by M. Amiconi; a stiff and hard representation of "Mrs. Woolner" (397), by Mr. Hughes; and an extraordinary portrait of "Lieut.-Colonel Gordon" (440), in his uniform as a mandarin of the Yellow Jacket, painted by Mr. Prinsep.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.—A meeting, under the auspices of the National Reform League, was held, on Monday, on Primrose-hill. There was a very numerous attendance, notwithstanding that the people generally were holiday-making. Mr. Edmond Beales presided, and read letters from Mr. J. S. Mill, M.P., and Mr. Bright, M.P., who were unable to be present. The chairman himself delivered a vigorous speech in support of the Government Reform Bills, and resolutions were passed in favour of the Government measures.

AN INCIDENT IN THE PANIC.—The *Builder* is loud, and deservedly, in its praises of those concerned in a noteworthy incident of the panic, and thus records it:—"It is said that when one of those great employers of labour (Peto, Betts, and Co.), the suspension of whose large operations is one of the most universally regretted events of the crisis, was first known to be in jeopardy, a brother contractor—whose name may be readily surmised, for it has become throughout Europe a household word for probity and straightforward conduct, as well as for enterprise and energy—called on him, accompanied by three other members of the same calling. The first had in his pocket £200,000, the others £100,000 each. The half million was freely placed at the disposal of the tottering firm, on the condition that its use would be sufficient to ensure its stability, and, with a frankness and courage as honourable as was the generosity of the offer, was at once declined. If this account be true, and it is stated on no slight authority, it is hard to say to which party it does most credit—to those who, on so noble a scale, did as they would be done by, or to those who could decline assistance to such a gigantic amount, lest it should not be fully adequate to supply the wants of credit arrangements so suddenly and violently overthrown. Honour to the builders of England, who contain in their ranks men capable of such an offer, and of such a refusal! Amid all the confusion and general selfishness of a financial panic, an incident such as this shines like a glint of sunshine through the storm."





THE BOMBARDMENT OF VALPARAISO.





THE LUNCHEON-ROOM OF THE GRAND STAND AT EPSOM ON THE DERBY DAY.

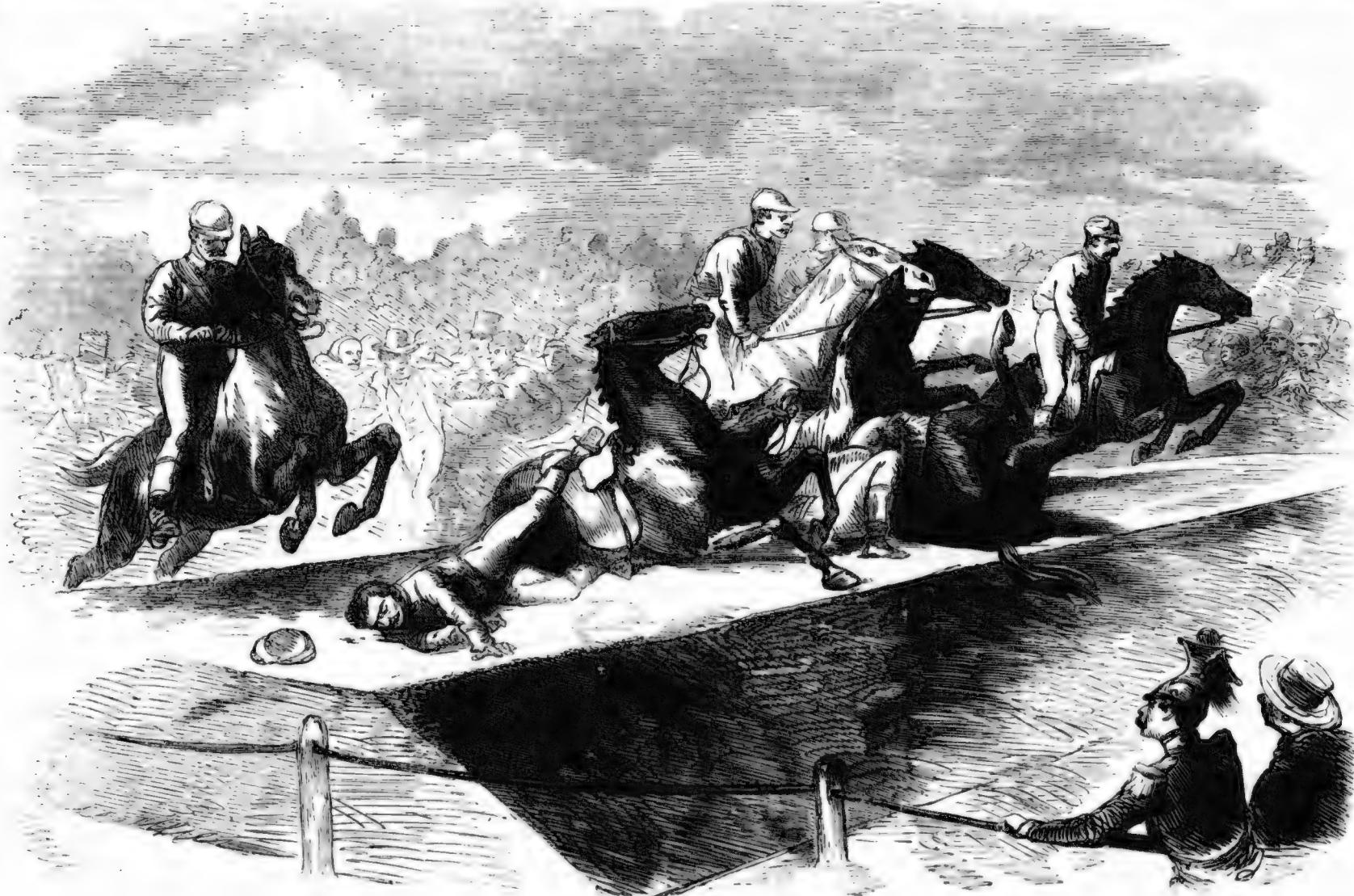
## EPSOM RACES.

## THE COMMISSARIAT ON THE DERBY DAY.

The commissariat of the Derby Day must be something enormous. Two hundred thousand people, it is calculated, were present on Epsom Downs on Wednesday, the 16th inst., all of whom had to be fed and "liquored," as the Yankees would say—and fed and liquored, too, as only Derby-goers can feed and liquor. Such

appetites! and such thirst! There must be something in the influences of horse-racing to promote digestion; certainly, the excitement is well calculated to provoke "drouthiness." People do masticate and imbibe at a great rate on such occasions, and in such a hearty, jolly, jovial way, too! Finical persons, who, on ordinary occasions, would be "put out" were there a speck of rust upon the knife, a stain upon the cloth, even were the latter laid away; who would storm at cold meat on Mondays; who would rather

cheat their stomachs than not please their fancy in the matter of accessories, will gladly balance a plate upon their knees, on a carriage-wheel, on the box-seat, anywhere, and dine with a relish they never know when the table is laid with a snow-white cloth, when the most accurately-balanced cutlery is in use, and one of Minton's or Copeland's chef-d'œuvres in the way of china is provided. Nay, even men who are nice to a degree, usually, will not scorn to employ Nature's own dining-apparatus, and, with the help



ACCIDENT DURING THE STEEPLECHASE AT LYONS.



of a pocket-knife, "dine like a lord," and with more of relish, probably, than ever lord did—unless, indeed, upon a racecourse.

So much for the manner; but how shall we enumerate the materials of the feast? These are so various. Let us note, first, what we may, by comparison, call the meanest style. A costermonger's shallow, with Noddy released from the shafts, and cropping a meagre fare of furze-blossoms—pretty to look at, but perhaps not more likely to produce obesity than was the east wind snuffed up by a famous member of the race—is strewn with at the least "whangs" of bread and cheese, flanked by a jar of the inevitable and indispensable beer. Squatting on the grass, with a cloth spread or without, is another party. This at one spot. Next in rank—on the course, we mean, not in social position and style—is the handsome four-in-hand carriage or gay barouche; but there is little difference in the gusto with which the viands are disposed of: a touch of (hungry) nature makes the whole world kin. All are dining, and there is nothing so cosmopolitan or universal as that great daily performance, and especially cosmopolitan as members of the genus homo in dining "at the races." But we have wandered a little from the materials of this anything but barmecide feast. Could we but gather the whole tableau on the Downs within vision, what a varied, strange, heterogeneous conglomeration of comestibles would be spread before us! From the humble bread and cheese already mentioned we might range through rounds of roast-beef, roast and boiled mutton, hams, cold lamb and mint-sauce, lobster and salad, cold fowls and pigeon-pies, salmon and lobster-sauce, onwards till we get to the tid-bits, the perfection of elegant definetures furnished by Mr. Mayson in the handsome luncheon-saloon of the Grand Stand. There you have a display fit to make a hungry racecourse hunter's mouth water; and so enamoured was our artist with the sight that he has made a picture of it, and here it is for our readers' inspection.

But, unhappily, there is something else besides appetite and plenty to satisfy it to be seen here. All are not in the comfortable position of being hungry and knowing where to find food. Not a few individuals are to be seen with hollow cheeks and lack-lustre eyes, who, Lazarus like, are glad of the crumbs that fall from the tables—figuratively speaking, of course—of their richer brethren. Much in the gipsy way of thinking are these unfortunates—at least, seemingly of the children of Egypt; for many, perhaps most, are no gipsies at all, but mere Saxon vagabonds, who make fortune-telling their ostensible, but begging—perhaps a little pilfering—their real occupation. Gipsies, indeed! Who ever saw the genuine Romany-Rye with the blue eyes, round faces, flat cheeks of these would-be priestesses of the Delphic oracle? Away with them! Wretched shams be they! Where is the intensely black eye, in which, if you can fathom it at all, you may read "matter deep and dangerous"—a whole magazine of passion—latent gun-cotton, ready to explode on the slightest friction being applied to it? Where are the prominent cheekbones, the high yet narrow forehead, the wiry, athletic frame of the real gipsy? Except the tan contracted by exposure to the air, the bulk of these pretended gipsies have nothing of the real article about them. So we will not be taken in with shams; but, as most of the diners do, spare a morsel to the hungry ones, give a copper to the "little baby," and bid the fortune-tellers "move on." Could they tell the fortunes of the several horses, then, indeed, their services might be worth purchasing; but in this respect they are as much at sea as the regular racing prophets often are, and as are the spiritualists always when their vaticinations might be of any use.

This on the open Downs. In the tents there are huge mounds of bread, beef, and other edibles; and as to drinkables, everywhere there seems abundance. Lordly champagne, Gladstone claret (ay, and something better of that class of vintage); demure and jealous port, which will bear no rival near its throne; respectable—intensely respectable—sherry; that "beverage fit for the gods," as a friend now no more used to call it—the morning after, that is—lemonade and brandy, which we verily believe rivals the hock and soda-water which Byron declared would have delighted the heart of Xerxes, the great King; and, finally, beer, the Saxon's liquor par excellence, beer in all its different forms—bottled ale; draught ditto; ditto, again, in jars; porter, stout, cooper, all are here, and all disappear with a celerity really marvellous. Truly, a great place for mastication and imbibition are these same Epsom Downs! But we can linger over the scene no longer, save to say that, after all is over, what wonderful remnants are left! After all that hungry multitude has well dined, many basketfuls of fragments may be taken up. And then the debris upon the field! Acres of crumpled newspapers, masses of broken bottles, shattered wine-glasses, the fragments of shattered tumblers, mugs, and beer-cans, mingled with bones, bread-crumbs, &c., among which the hungry ones aforesaid manage to pick up a pretty decent supper. But—well, we can dilate no further on the subject. Those who wish to witness a singular scene, and to have a curious and interesting theme of contemplation, had better be there to see on the Derby Day of 1867.

#### THE OAKS.

It is a singular fact that the great race at Epsom on the Friday—the decision of which is to show which is the best mare of the year—should occupy so small a space in public attention. Scarcely ever mentioned until after the Derby, and then necessarily but for a brief interval, one of the most important events of the racing year is passed over with about half the amount of talk and speculation a county handicap commands. It will always be so, we suppose, for the lesser is swallowed up in the greater, and no prophet would be listened to who spoke of the Oaks before the Derby was over.

Nothing could be more lovely than the Oaks day this year. Barring a little dust, without which Epsom would not be itself, the incidents of the day were perfect, and we have rarely seen a fuller attendance. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Prince Teck, came in the unostentatious fashion that his Royal Highness seems to prefer. The hill was not so crowded as we have seen it, but the carriages were two or three deep opposite the stand and inclosure; and, if the show of beauty was not as brilliant as formerly, the same could not be said of the toilets, some of which would have made the *famille Benoiton* envious, so extravagant were they. If the horses were moderate in the Derby, certainly the same might be said of the mares. So indifferent were they that to pick the winner seemed beyond the judgment of the cleverest. The filly by King Tom—Mayonaise had come into the betting, and with Tormentor was about second favourite when the flag fell. Mr. Naylor had backed Wild Briar, and Mr. W. Morris and the stable were afraid to trust the high-priced and highly-bred La Dauphine. Ichia, in her canter, did not seem to move with freedom, and the best goers of the lot were the Mayonaise filly, Tormentor, and Mother of Pearl. Tormentor was nervous, but looked well, and had much thickened since last year. They were dispatched with little delay by Mr. M. George, and Mother of Pearl and La Dauphine went up the hill, leading their horses, the former retreating at the three-quarters of a mile post, and La Dauphine going on with the running at a strong pace, and looking for a short time as if she was going to run honest; but coming into the straight, she unmistakably gave it up, leaving Mirella, Tormentor, and Ichia in the front, the former with a clear lead, which at the Stand she resigned to Tormentor, who went in a clever winner by half a length, with Ichia third. The winner, who was bought as a yearling at the late Mr. Greville's sale for 71 guineas, is by King Tom—Tormentor, Mr. Greville's old mare, and won the two Numerics at Liverpool Autumn meeting last year, her best performance. As we have before said, the lot was a most moderate one. There was no Regalia this year to spread-eagle her field; but something not much above plating form was behind the winner. Seldom has there been so uneventful a Derby and Oaks as this year. To the mere pleasure-seeker the two festivals appeared in much the same dress they have worn for years; to the sportsman their aspect was flat and unprofitable. We cannot, of course, always be breeding Blair Athols and Gladstons, and must be content to take the second quality sometimes. We have heard of "an age of mediocrities," and Derbies doubtless come in for their share.

The business of refreshment-taking, of course, went on with vigour on the Oaks as on the Derby Day; but in a calmer, more dignified, and more refined manner. The "respectable" element of society predominates at Epsom on the Friday as the "rough" as unmistakably does on the Wednesday. The crowd being on an infinitely smaller scale, the dining provision necessarily dwindled in proportion. Yet all seemed hungry and thirsty on this as on the more important day. But there were nowhere to be seen any indications of excess. We traversed the course again and again, and we did not leave it till after seven o'clock in the evening, when the carriages were all gone, the crowd was dispersed, and the refreshment-booths were being shut up, and we can honestly say that we did not see a single intoxicated person. People had taken enough to sustain the body and to animate the spirits, but none seemed to have exceeded these limits. This was not, perhaps, true to the same extent on the Derby Day; the different character of a large portion of the company present precluded that, perhaps; but both days showed very fairly that English men and women can go out and enjoy themselves thoroughly without indulging in degrading orgies—a very satisfactory and pleasing circumstance.

#### ACCIDENT AT THE GREAT FRENCH STEEPLECHASE.

FRENCH correspondents are still busy in conveying particulars of the horsey character of the amusements of the Parisians at the present season; and Whit Monday was observed as a sort of rough festival in this way at La Marche, which is said to have borne some resemblance to our own defunct Greenwich fair—with the additional excitement of a steeplechase, in which the interest was increased by one or two rather serious falls. All the world—or, at least, the largest part of the sporting people—was there; and the drags, champagne lunches, costumes, postboys, and general dissipation made up a sort of French Derby; while the road back, and the furious driving of the Parisian jockeys, might have emulated that part of our own road which begins just on the London side of Sutton. There was an awful row, too, on the course, in which it is said that a certain Count declared that L'Africain had been pulled; whereupon Mr. Riddell retorted, "You lie!" and, as his antagonist persisted in the statement, followed up the retort courteous by what in the language of the ring is called "a ho: 'un" in the face, whereupon the native gentlemen of the turf mobbed Mr. Riddell and threatened him with fists and sticks. Probably there will be a duel; but how will that mend matters? This was at the grand military steeplechase too—the great international occasion for the cultivation of le sport. But our engraving relates to another occasion—that of the grand steeplechase organised by the army of Lyons for the benefit of the poor of the city, in which a still more deplorable event occurred, as far as injury to the principal actors is concerned. A great crowd had assembled at the course, where the race was to be run by the officers of the lancers. The start was given, the first obstacle was passed, and the whole field was in full career, when they reached that fatal construction known to the French steeplechaser as "La banquette Irlandaise," and which is eminently calculated to bring man and horse to grief. The first horse went thundering at it, but could not recover, and rolled over upon his unfortunate rider; the second was going at headlong speed, and came crashing upon the leader to share a similar fate; and, to the horror of those who witnessed it, a third and a fourth were added to the frightful mée. Officers and horses rolled one over the other in inextricable confusion. The spectators upon the course turned sick with excitement upon witnessing the catastrophe; and two horsemen, who rode to the scene of the accident, began to cheer the victors before they became aware of the fatal result which led to two dead bodies being carried back to the starting-place. These were M. M. Moussy and Riquet, who met their deaths in the attempt to assist their companions. It would be well for our lively neighbours to give themselves more practice in the recently-established riding-school before giving their minds, or, at least, their bodies, to the art of steeplechasing. The hunting-field and the racecourse require a different style of horsemanship to that practised in a cavalry regiment; and, though nothing can exceed the ardent valour of the French, whether in sport or grim earnest, men's lives are too valuable to be jeopardised for want of practice in going across country.

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

BELLINI is in favour just now at both our Opera Houses. At Her Majesty's Theatre "I Paritani" and "La Sonnambula" have recently been performed. At the Royal Italian Opera "Norma" has been given some half-dozen times for the débuts of Mme. Maria Vilda, whose success is steadily increasing; and, on Monday, "La Sonnambula" was played, with Mlle. Adeline Patti in the part which first served to introduce her to an English audience.

Mlle. de Murska was to have appeared on Thursday, for the first time in England in the part of D. Norah, which ought to suit her original, somewhat fantastic, talent admirably. Judging from Mlle. de Murska's success in the sleep-walking scene in the "Sonnambula," and in the mad scene in the "Lucia," we should say that her performance in the "Pardon de Ploemel" must be one continuous triumph, for the heroine of that opera is in a half-dreamy, half-demented state throughout.

At Mlle. Pauline Lucca's concert, which took place on Monday at St. James's Hall, all the known members of the Royal Italian Opera, with the exception of Mlle. Adeline Patti, M. Faure, and Signor Fancelli (who had to sing the same evening at the theatre in "La Sonnambula"), took part. Mlle. Lucca introduced a chaconne by Offenbach, and a new and very graceful air by Mr. Benedict, "Die Eolsharfe," which was encored. Mme. Orgei (or Orgey—she name is Hungarian), sang the scena from "La Traviata" ("Ah, forse e lui!"), in the first part of the concert, and in the second a Russian popular melody called "Solover" or the "Nightingale," followed by a Polish air extracted from one of Chopin's mazurkas. Mme. Vilda had three pieces assigned to her: the cavatina from "Norma" ("Casta Diva"), Ardit's "Il Bacio," and the "Ombre Legère" from "D. Norah." Signor Mario sang a French romance by Gordigiani; Signor Graziani an Italian romanza by Stanzeri; Signor Nicolini, a new tenor who is shortly to appear at the Royal Italian Opera, and who was very successful last season in Paris, sang with great taste the charming air from "Lu'sa Miller," "Quando le sere." Signor Nicolini has a fine voice, which he has cultivated to some purpose. He is not such a strong tenor as Mongini, nor such a mild tenor as Fancelli. We should put him down as "medium flavour."

Mr. G. W. Martin, the director of the National Choral Society, has discovered, and has publicly advertised the supposed fact, that Mme. Maria Vilda, of the Royal Italian Opera, has been "universally pronounced the greatest singer who has appeared during the present generation." Mme. Vilda is a fine singer, but no one except Mr. Martin has pronounced her "the greatest who has appeared during the present generation." Some (*quorum pars sumus*) prefer Patti; some, Lucca; some, Trebelli; some (we, again, are of the number) Jenny Lind; some (including ourselves), Albani; and we are now counting living singers alone, to the exclusion of the lamented Mme. Bosio and other vocalists belonging distinctly to the "present generation." It is not fair to Mme. Vilda to puff her in this extravagant manner. And does Mr. Martin think that the frequenters of the National Choral Society would really be unable to judge of her merits if left to themselves?

At recent concerts, as well as at operatic performances, we have noticed the presence of a regularly organised *claque*. The *claque* system has almost destroyed itself in France; and in England also, when it is once understood that the most energetic applauders are paid for applauding, the general public will abstain altogether from applause. The English *claqueurs*, or rather the *claqueurs* employed in English theatres—for they are for the most part Italians—are not, we believe, paid by the managers, but by singers, who do not find themselves properly appreciated by the audience as generally composed. We should be glad to see this system put a stop to before it has time to take root and become naturalised among us.

According to existing arrangements, the *claqueurs*, both at the opera and in concert-rooms, take their seats in the gallery; but, if the *claque* is well organised, the chief—who, as the police-reporter says, "presents the appearance of a gentleman"—takes up his position in the stalls, whence, unsuspected by those around him, he gives, from time to time, the signal for applause.

#### LIGHT WINES.

WHAT becomes of all the cheap wine that is imported? Some curious statistics have come before us, which make this question interesting to almost every class. In 1801 the amount of duty paid in this country on foreign wines represented an importation of 6,786,710 gallons. About that time the population consisted of 15,000,000 souls. Half a century later, notwithstanding the growth of population and wealth, the importation of wine had positively decreased, the amount imported being 6,437,222 gallons. Another decade showed an increase in the annual import of about 1,000,000 gallons; and last year, under the operation of the reduced duties, no less than 12,061,386 gallons have been entered for duty; and it should be borne in mind that this latter quantity had not to be reduced for any allowance of drawback, while the former quantities were to be reduced by about 450,000 gallons, reshipped under drawback. Well, here is proof positive that the wine is beginning to flow in, and that the public is acquiring a taste for a wine which is cheap enough to be accessible to almost all of us, and mild enough to "cheer but not inebriate." For every one knows that this increase has taken place, not in the heavy, brandied wines of Spain and Portugal, unnaturally strengthened for the English market, but in those lighter growths, drunk and appreciated by the natives, and for a century at least a stranger to these shores.

What, then, becomes of the cheap wines? It is possible to get a hogshead of fair second-class Bordeaux wine at from £8 to £10 a hogshead. This, with the cost of bottling and duty paid, will stand the purchaser at about 11d. or 1s. a bottle—not Lafitte or Margaux, not La Rose or Lionne, but a genuine, healthy, *grapeful*, and grateful wine. Yet the price of claret, bought of the wine merchant or drunk at the hotel, bears no proportion to this. A pint of claret, at 8d., 10d., or 1s., would be a boon to many a diner in the City, and would secure a marvellous profit to the *entrepreneur*. But two obstacles stand in the way: the vender fancies he is lowering his establishment by selling cheap, and the inveterate British public has not got over its belief that what is cheap is necessarily nasty. Still, there are hundreds of persons who have tasted a decent glass of Bordeaux at less than 6d. abroad, and who would like to get it here, at a reasonable cost. They naturally grumble at paying 100 per cent profit to the hotel-keeper, and, preferring not to be fleeced, stick to their cheaper and more heady malt and hops. Really, this is not a sign of progress. In 1852 French wines were forbidden to be sold above 8d. the gallon, and the retail price of "Malmesies, hominies, volais, and other sweet wyne" was fixed at twelvence the gallon, threepence the quart, and three-halfpence the pint, under pain of forfeiting "the summe of three shillings and fourpence" for every gallon sold at a higher price. Allowing that wine, like any other good thing, has risen in price since the good old times, is there any reason why your modern host should charge you 2s. for a pint of claret and then look down upon you as a shabby customer, or why the very lowest price at which your wine merchant will recommend you a good wholesome claret is 30s. to 36s. a dozen?

We have spoken of Bordeaux wines, but the same may be said of the vinous products of half Europe. What do ninety-nine out of a hundred Englishmen know of the natural wines of Spain, which are the bases of the golden and pale sherries they treasure up in their cellars for a future generation to drink? What opinion can they give of those rich, luscious, powerful growths of Austria and Hungary, which want no alcoholic addition even for your "barbarous islanders," and which yet no ordinary man dare put upon his dinner-table or offer to his neighbour? What of the Italian and Greek wines, which, in the palmiest days of the luxurious old world, inspired poets and consecrated feasts? Literally nothing. We are wedded to high prices and brandied wines. As a witty Frenchman once said, we are "*Les Chinois de l'Europe*," and it will take years to convince us that foreigners know best about their own productions, and that those made up for the English market may, in nine cases out of ten, be summed up in two words, "adulteration" and "deterioration."

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MR. GLADSTONE'S SCHEME FOR REDUCING THE NATIONAL DEBT.—A return explanatory of Mr. Gladstone's scheme, showing its effect each half year till 1885 in all its various modes of operation, has been prepared by the Treasury, in obedience to an order of the House of Commons. It will be recollected that the amount of the irredeemable annuity into which Mr. Gladstone proposed to convert the savings-bank debt was £1,725,128 per annum. The half-yearly payment, therefore, on the 10th of October next will be £862,564. By means of this sum an equivalent 3 per cent stock of £980,188 can be purchased and cancelled at the price of 88 per cent. This stock being cancelled, it is proposed to commute, at £88. per cent, the interest resulting from the above price into annuities expiring on April 5, 1905. The annuity to be created for the first half year will be £40,452 per annum, and the first half-yearly moiety of this annuity for reinvestment will be £20,226. But the half year's interest on the stock cancelled will only be £14,703, so that to pay this new annuity there will be a net increased charge in the half year of £5523. For the second half year—namely, on the 5th of April next, the half-yearly payment on the original annuity will be increased by £20,226, the payment for the new annuity created; and the sum available for cancelling stock will thus be £862,790, instead of £862,564. All the other results will be increased in proportion. £1,003,170 stock will be cancelled; £41,666 new annuities will be created; the half year's interest on stock cancelled will be £29,750; and the net increased charge in the half year will be £11,309. On April 5, 1865, £62,514,849 of stock will have been cancelled, and an annuity of £3,170,316, terminating in 1905, will have been created, the increased annual charge being £647,435. A similar table is made up showing the effect of the operation beginning with an annuity of £100,000.

NEW LIFE-BOATS.—Sheffield and Leicester have severally presented to the National Life-boat Institution the cost of a life-boat. Each boat is named after the respective town. The Sheffield boat is 32 ft. long, and is to be stationed at Runswick, near Whitby; and the Leicester life-boat is 33 ft. long, and is to be forwarded to Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth. Both places have not previously had boats belonging to the institution. The life-boats possess the usual characteristics of self-righting and self-ejecting the water. The Sheffield boat, on the way to its station was exhibited at the Botanical Gardens in that town on Whit Monday, and its presentation to the institution took place in the presence of some thousands of people. The Rev. Canon Sale, D.D., having offered up an appropriate prayer for the future success of the boat, the Mayor (Mrs. Laycock) named the boat, amidst the hearty cheers of the spectators. The Mayor afterwards formally presented the boat to the institution. The Leicester life-boat was also shown to the people of Leicester on Whit Tuesday, and was publicly presented, amid great rejoicing, Mrs. T. W. Hodges naming the boat, and W. H. Walker, Esq., presenting it, on behalf of the people of Leicester, to the society. The principal residents and the working classes in both towns have most liberally supported these humane undertakings, which will long remain monuments of their philanthropy, as by means of these two life-boats both towns, though situated far inland, will be aiding directly in the great and national work of saving life from shipwreck. Commodious life-boat houses are in course of erection at Runswick and Gorleston for the reception of the boats. The various railway companies, as usual, readily conveyed the boats, free of charge, to their destinations. The institution has now 163 life-boats under its charge, and their number is gradually increasing.



33, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, London.



of a pocket-knife, "dine like a lord," and with more of relief, probably, than ever lord did—unless, indeed, upon a racecourse.

So much for the manner; but how shall we enumerate the materials of the feast? These are so various. Let us note, first, what we may, by comparison, call the meanest style. A coarsermonger's shallow, with Noddy released from the shafts, and cropping a meagre fare of furze-blossoms—pretty to look at, but perhaps not more likely to produce obesity than was the east wind snuffed up by a famous member of the race—is strewn with at the least "whangs" of bread and cheese, flanked by a jar of the inevitable and indispensable beer. Squatting on the grass, with a cloth spread or without, is another party. This at one spot. Next in rank—on the course, we mean, not in social position and style—is the handsome four-in-hand carriage or gay brouche; but there is little difference in the gusto with which the viands are disposed of: a touch of (hungry) nature makes the whole world kin. All are dining, and there is nothing so cosmopolitan or universal as that great daily performance, and especially cosmopolitan as members of the genus homo in dining "at the races." But we have wandered a little from the materials of this anything but barnacle feast. Could we but gather the whole tableau on the Downs within vision, what a varied, strange, heterogeneous conglomeration of comestibles would be spread before us! From the humble bread and cheese already mentioned we might range through rounds of roast-beef, roast and boiled mutton, hams, cold lamb and mint-sauce, lobster and salad, cold fowls and pigeon-pies, salmon and lobster-sauce, onwards till we get to the tid-bits, the perfection of elegant dainties furnished by Mr. Mayson in the handsome luncheon-saloon of the Grand Stand. There you have a display fit to make a hungry racecourse haunter's mouth water; and so enamoured was our artist with the sight that he has made a picture of it, and here it is for our readers' inspection.

But, unhappily, there is something else besides appetite and plenty to satisfy it to be seen here. All are not in the comfortable position of being hungry and knowing where to find food. Not a few individuals are to be seen with hollow cheeks and lacklustre eyes, who, Lazarus like, are glad of the crumbs that fall from the tables—figuratively speaking, of course—of their richer brethren. Much in the gipsy way of thinking are these unfortunates—at least, seemingly of the children of Egypt; for many, perhaps most, are no gipsies at all, but mere Saxon vagabonds, who make fortune-telling their ostensible, but begging—perhaps a little pilfering—their real occupation. Gipsies, indeed! Who ever saw the genuine Romany-Rye with the blue eyes, round faces, flat cheeks of these would-be priestesses of the Delphic oracle? Away with them! Wretched shams be they! Where is the intensely black eye, in which, if you can fathom it at all, you may read "matter deep and dangerous"—a whole magazine of passion—latent gun-cotton, ready to explode on the slightest friction being applied to it? Where are the prominent cheekbones, the high yet narrow forehead, the wiry, athletic frame of the real gipsy? Except the tan contracted by exposure to the air, the bulk of these pretended gipsies have nothing of the real article about them. So we will not be taken in with shams; but, as most of the diners do, spare a morsel to the hungry ones, give a copper to the "little baby," and bid the fortune-tellers "move on." Could they tell the fortunes of the several horses, then, indeed, their services might be worth purchasing; but in this respect they are as much at sea as the regular racing prophets often are, and as are the spiritualists always when their vaticinations might be of any use.

This on the open Downs. In the tents there are huge mounds of bread, beef, and other edibles; and as to drinkables, everywhere there seems abundance. Lordly champagne, Gladstone claret (ay, and something better of that class of vintage); demure and jealous port, which will bear no rival near its throne; respectable—intensely respectable—sherry; that "beverage fit for the gods," as a friend now no more used to call it—the morning after, that is—lemonade and brandy, which we verily believe rivals the hock and soda-water which Byron declared would have delighted the heart of Xerxes, the great King; and, finally, beer, the Saxon's liquor par excellence, beer in all its different forms—bottled ale; draught ditto; ditto, again, in jars; porter, stout, cooper, all are here, and all disappear with a celerity really marvellous. Truly, a great place for mastication and imbibition are these same Epsom Downs! But we can linger over the scene no longer, save to say that, after all is over, what wonderful remnants are left! After all that hungry multitude has well dined, many basketfuls of fragments may be taken up. And then the debris upon the field! Acres of crumpled newspapers, masses of broken bottles, shattered wine-glasses, the fragments of shivered tumblers, mugs, and beer-cans, mingled with bones, bread-crumbs, &c., among which the hungry ones aforesaid manage to pick up a pretty decent supper. But—well, we can dilate no further on the subject. Those who wish to witness a singular scene, and to have a curious and interesting theme of contemplation, had better be there to see on the Derby Day of 1867.

#### THE OAKS.

It is a singular fact that the great race at Epsom on the Friday—the decision of which is to show which is the best mare of the year—should occupy so small a space in public attention. Scarcely ever mentioned until after the Derby, and then necessarily but for a brief interval, one of the most important events of the racing year is passed over with about half the amount of talk and speculation a county handicap commands. It will always be so, we suppose, for the leaser is swallowed up in the greater, and no prophet would be listened to who spoke of the Oaks before the Derby was over.

Nothing could be more lovely than the Oaks day this year. Barring a little dust, without which Epsom would not be itself, the incidents of the day were perfect, and we have rarely seen a fuller attendance. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Prince Teck, came in the unostentatious fashion that his Royal Highness seems to prefer. The hill was not so crowded as we have seen it, but the carriages were two or three deep opposite the stand and inclosure; and, if the show of beauty was not as brilliant as formerly, the same could not be said of the toilets, some of which would have made the *famille Bénédict* envious, so extravagant were they. If the horses were moderate in the Derby, certainly the same might be said of the mares. So indifferent were they that to pick the winner seemed beyond the judgment of the cleverest. The filly by King Tom—Mayonaise had come into the betting, and with Tormentor was about second favourite when the flag fell. Mr. Naylor had backed Wild Briar, and Mr. W. Morris and the stable were afraid to trust the high-priced and highly-bred La Dauphine. Iechia, in her canter, did not seem to move with freedom, and the best goers of the lot were the Mayonaise filly, Tormentor, and Mother of Pearl. Tormentor was nervous, but looked well, and had much thickened since last year. They were dispatched with little delay by Mr. M'George, and Mother of Pearl and La Dauphine went up the hill, leading their horses, the former retracing at the three-quarters of a mile post, and La Dauphine going on with the running at a strong pace, and looking for a short time as if she was going to run honest; but coming into the straight, she unmistakably gave it up, leaving Mirella, Tormentor, and Iechia in the front, the former with a clear lead, which at the Stand she resigned to Tormentor, who went in a clever winner by half a length, with Iechia third. The winner, who was bought as a yearling at the late Mr. Greville's sale for 71 guineas, is by King Tom—Tormentor, Mr. Greville's old mare, and won the two Nurseries at Liverpool Autumn meeting last year, her best performance. As we have before said, the lot was a most moderate one. There was no Regalia this year to spread-eagle her field; but something not much above plating form was behind the winner. Seldom has there been so uneventful a Derby and Oaks as this year. To the mere pleasure-seeker the two festivals appeared in much the same dress they have worn for years; to the sportsman their aspect was flat and unprofitable. We cannot, of course, always be breeding Blair Athols and Gladiators, and must be content to take the second quality sometimes. We have heard of "an age of mediocrities," and Derbies doubtless come in for their share.

The business of refreshment-taking, of course, went on with vigour on the Oaks as on the Derby Day; but in a calmer, more dignified, and more refined manner. The "respectable" element of society predominates at Epsom on the Friday as the "rough" as unmistakably does on the Wednesday. The crowd being on an infinitely smaller scale, the dining provision necessarily dwindled in proportion. Yet all seemed hungry and thirsty on this as on the more important day. But there were nowhere to be seen any indications of excess. We traversed the course again and again, and we did not leave it till after seven o'clock in the evening, when the carriages were all gone, the crowd was dispersed, and the refreshment-booths were being shut up, and we can honestly say that we did not see a single intoxicated person. People had taken enough to sustain the body and to animate the spirits, but none seemed to have exceeded these limits. This was not, perhaps, true to the same extent on the Derby Day; the different character of a large portion of the company present precluded that, perhaps; but both days showed very fairly that English men and women can go out and enjoy themselves thoroughly without indulging in degrading orgies—a very satisfactory and pleasing circumstance.

#### ACCIDENT AT THE GREAT FRENCH STEEPLECHASE.

FRENCH correspondents are still busy in conveying particulars of the horsey character of the amusements of the Parisians at the present season; and Whit Monday was observed as a sort of rough festival in this way at La Marche, which is said to have borne some resemblance to our own defunct Greenwich fair—with the additional excitement of a steeplechase, in which the interest was increased by one or two rather serious falls. All the world—or, at least, the largest part of the sporting people—was there; and the drags, champagne lunches, costumes, postboys, and general dissipation made up a sort of French Derby; while the road back, and the furious driving of the Parisian jervies, might have emulated that part of our own road which begins just on the London side of Sutton. There was an awful row, too, on the course, in which it is said that a certain Count declared that L'Africain had been pulled; whereupon Mr. Riddell retorted, "You lie!" and, as his antagonist persisted in the statement, followed up the retort courteous by what in the language of the ring is called "a hot 'un" in the face, whereupon the native gentlemen of the turf mobbed Mr. Riddell and threatened him with fists and sticks. Probably there will be a duel; but how will that mend matters? This was at the grand military steeplechase too—the great international occasion for the cultivation of le sport. But our Engraving relates to another occasion—that of the grand steeplechase organised by the army of Lyons for the benefit of the poor of the city, in which a still more deplorable event occurred, as far as injury to the principal actors is concerned. A great crowd had assembled at the course, where the race was to be run by the officers of the lancers. The start was given, the first obstacle was passed, and the whole field was in full career, when they reached that fatal construction known to the French steeplechaser as "La banquette Irlandaise," and which is eminently calculated to bring man and horse to grief. The first horse went thundering at it, but could not recover, and rolled over upon his unfortunate rider; the second was going at headlong speed, and came crashing upon the leader to share a similar fate; and, to the horror of those who witnessed it, a third and a fourth were added to the frightful *mélee*. Officers and horses rolled one over the other in inextricable confusion. The spectators upon the course turned sick with excitement upon witnessing the catastrophe; and two horsemen, who rode to the scene of the accident, began to cheer the victors before they became aware of the fatal result which led to two dead bodies being carried back to the starting-place. These were M.M. Moussy and Riquet, who met their deaths in the attempt to assist their companions. It would be well for our lively neighbours to give the *deuils* more practice in the recently-established riding-school before giving their minds, or, at least, their bodies, to the art of steeplechasing. The hunting-field and the racecourse require a different style of horsemanship to that practised in a cavalry regiment; and, though nothing can exceed the ardent valour of the French, whether in sport or grim earnest, men's lives are too valuable to be jeopardized for want of practice in going across country.

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

BELLINI is in favour just now at both our Opera Houses. At Her Majesty's Theatre "I Paritani" and "La Sonnambula" have recently been performed. At the Royal Italian Opera "Norma" has been given some half-dozen times for the débuts of Mme. Maria Vilda, whose success is steadily increasing; and, on Monday, "La Sonnambula" was played, with Mlle. Adeline Patti in the part which first served to introduce her to an English audience.

Mlle. de Murka was to have appeared on Thursday, for the first time in England in the part of Dnorah, which ought to suit her original, somewhat fantastic, talent admirably. Judging from Mlle. de Murka's success in the sleep-walking scene in the "Sonnambula" and in the mad scene in the "Lucia," we should say that her performance in the "Pardon de Ploemel" must be one continuous triumph, for the heroine of that opera is in a half-dreamy, half-demented state throughout.

At Mlle. Pauline Lucca's concert, which took place on Monday at St. James's Hall, all the known members of the Royal Italian Opera, with the exception of Mlle. Adeline Patti, M. Faure, and Signor Fancelli (who had to sing the same evening at the theatre in "La Sonnambula"), took part. Mlle. Lucca introduced a *chaconne* by Offenbach, and a new and very graceful air by Mr. Benedict, "Die Celschaffe," which was encored. Mme. Orgeni (or Orgenyi—the name is Hungarian), sang the scena from "La Traviata" ("Ah, forse e lui!"), in the first part of the concert, and in the second a Russian popular melody called "Solover" or the "Nightingale," followed by a Polish air extracted from one of Chopin's mazurkas. Mme. Vilda had three pieces assigned to her: the cavatina from "Norma" ("Casta Diva"), Ardit's "Il Bacio," and the "Ombre Legère" from "Dnorah." Signor Mario sang a French romance by Gordigiani; Signor Graziani an Italian romance by Stanzeri; Signor Nicolini, a new tenor who is shortly to appear at the Royal Italian Opera, and who was very successful last season in Paris, sang with great taste the charming air from "Lu'sa Miller," "Quando le sere." Signor Nicolini has a fine voice, which he has cultivated to some purpose. He is not such a strong tenor as Mongini, nor such a mild tenor as Fancelli. We should put him down as "medium flavour."

Mr. G. W. Martin, the director of the National Choral Society, has discovered, and has publicly advertised the supposed fact, that Mme. Maria Vilda, of the Royal Italian Opera, has been "universally pronounced the greatest singer who has appeared during the present generation." Mme. Vilda is a fine singer, but no one except Mr. Martin has pronounced her "the greatest who has appeared during the present generation." Some (*quorum pars sumus*) prefer Patti; some Lucca; some, Trebelli; some (we, again, are of the number) Jenny Lind; some (including ourselves), Albani; and we are now counting living singers alone, to the exclusion of the lamented Mme. Bosio and other vocalists belonging distinctly to the "present generation." It is not fair to Mme. Vilda to puff her in this extravagant manner. And does Mr. Martin think that the frequenters of the National Choral Society would really be unable to judge of her merits if left to themselves?

At recent concerts, as well as at operatic performances, we have noticed the presence of a regularly organised *claque*. The *claque* system has almost destroyed itself in France; and in England also, when it is once understood that the most energetic applauders are paid for applauding, the general public will abstain altogether from applause. The English *claqueurs*, or rather the *claqueurs* employed in English theatres—for they are for the most part Italians—are not, we believe, paid by the managers, but by singers, who do not find themselves properly appreciated by the audience as generally composed. We should be glad to see this system put a stop to before it has time to take root and become naturalised among us.

According to existing arrangements, the *claqueurs*, both at the opera and in concert-rooms, take their seats in the gallery; but, if the *claque* is well organised, the chief—who, as the police-reporter says, "presents the appearance of a gentleman"—takes up his position in the stalls, whence, unsuspected by those around him, he gives, from time to time, the signal for applause.

#### LIGHT WINES.

WHAT becomes of all the cheap wine that is imported? Some curious statistics have come before us, which make this question interesting to almost every class. In 1801 the amount of duty paid in this country on foreign wines represented an importation of 6,786,710 gallons. About that time the population consisted of 15,000,000 souls. Half a century later, notwithstanding the growth of population and wealth, the importation of wine had positively decreased, the amount imported being 6,437,222 gallons. Another decade showed an increase in the annual import of about 1,000,000 gallons; and last year, under the operation of the reduced duties, no less than 12,061,386 gallons have been entered for duty; and it should be borne in mind that this latter quantity had not to be reduced for any allowance of drawback, while the former quantities were to be reduced by about 450,000 gallons, reshipped under drawback. Well, here is proof positive that the wine is beginning to flow in, and that the public is acquiring a taste for a wine which is cheap enough to be accessible to almost all of us, and mild enough to "cheer but not inebriate." For every one knows that this increase has taken place, not in the heavy, brandied wines of Spain and Portugal, unnaturally strengthened for the English market, but in those lighter growths, drunk and appreciated by the natives, and for a century at least a stranger to these shores.

What, then, becomes of the cheap wines? It is possible to get a hoghead of fair second-class Bordeaux wine at from £8 to £10 a hoghead. This, with the cost of bottling and duty paid, will stand the purchaser in about 11d. or 1s. a bottle—not Lafitte or Margaux, not La Rose or Lionne, but a genuine, healthy, *grapeful*, and grateful wine. Yet the price of claret, bought of the wine merchant or drunk at the hotel, bears no proportion to this. A pint of claret, at 8d., 10d., or 1s., would be a boon to many a diner in the City, and would secure a marvellous profit to the *entrepreneur*. But two obstacles stand in the way: the vender fancies he is lowering his establishment by selling cheap, and the inveterate British public has not got over its belief that what is cheap is necessarily nasty. Still, there are hundreds of persons who have tasted a decent glass of Bordeaux at less than 6d. abroad, and who would like to get it here, at a reasonable cost. They naturally grumble at paying 100 per cent profit to the hotel-keeper, and, preferring not to be fleeced, stick to their cheaper and more heady malt and hops. Really, this is not a sign of progress. In 1852 French wines were forbidden to be sold above 8d. the gallon, and the retail price of "Malmesie, hominies, volksis, and other sweet wyne" was fixed at twelvepence the gallon, threepence the quart, and three-halfpence the pint, under pain of forfeiting "the summe of three shillings and fourpence" for every gallon sold at a higher price. Allowing that wine, like any other good thing, has risen in price since the good old times, is there any reason why your modern host should charge you 2s. for a pint of claret and then look down upon you as a shabby customer, or why the very lowest price at which your wine merchant will recommend you a good wholesome claret is 30s. to 36s. a dozen?

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Unfortunately, it is not everyone who has the knowledge, or the time, or the opportunity, for getting hold of these genuine wines at first hand. To do this, management and a certain amount of familiarity with the question are required. And in general it is safer to trust to the experience of some agents in whose knowledge confidence can be placed, and whose stock is sufficiently large to enable him to lay in large quantities, and therefore cheaply. Certain it is that genuine wines are now to be had in London, at a price very little, if at all beyond, what a purchaser would pay for them on the spot of their growth, and these not mere French burgundies and clarets, but very superior, light, unbranded Spanish wines, delicate in flavour, and entirely free from acidity. To Messrs. H. R. Williams and Co., Crosby Hall, is due, we believe, the merit of the introduction of this last class of wines to the public, and we venture to predict that they will very speedily drive the traditional two-and-sixpenny and three-shilling sherry, with its unnatural strength and its crude acidity, out of the market. When that day arrives, it will be a good time for the purses as well as the stomachs of the wine-consuming classes of this country.

MR. GLADSTONE'S SCHEME FOR REDUCING THE NATIONAL DEBT.—A return explanatory of Mr. Gladstone's scheme, showing its effect each half year till 1885 in all its various modes of operation, has been prepared by the Treasury, in obedience to an order of the House of Commons. It will be recollected that the amount of the irredeemable annuity into which Mr. Gladstone proposed to convert the savings-bank debt was £1,725,128 per annum. The half-yearly payment, therefore, on the 10th of October next will be £862,564. By means of this sum an equivalent 3 per cent stock of £980,186 can be purchased and cancelled at the price of 85 per cent. This stock being cancelled, it is proposed to commute, at £3 8s. per cent, the interest resulting from the above price into annuities expiring on April 5, 1905. The annuity to be created for the first half year will be £40,452 per annum, and the first half-yearly moiety of this annuity for reinvestment will be £20,226. But the half year's interest on the stock cancelled will only be £14,703, so that to pay this new annuity there will be a net increased charge in the half year of £5523. For the second half year—namely, on the 5th of April next, the half-yearly payment on the original annuity will be increased by £20,226, the payment for the new annuity created; and the sum available for cancelling stock will thus be £862,790, instead of £862,564. All the other results will be increased in proportion. £1,003,170 stock will be cancelled; £41,666 new annuities will be created; the half year's interest on stock cancelled will be £29,750; and the net increased charge in the half year will be £11,309. On April 5, 1866, £62,514,849 of stock will have been cancelled, and an annuity of £3,170,316, terminating in 1905, will have been created, the increased annual charge being £647,435. A similar table is made up showing the effect of the operation beginning with an annuity of £100,000.

NEW LIFE-BOATS.—Sheffield and Leicester have severally presented to the National Life-boat Institution the cost of a life-boat. Each boat is named after the respective town. The Sheffield boat is 32 ft. long, and is to be stationed at Runswick, near Whitby; and the Leicester life-boat is 33 ft. long, and is to be forwarded to Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth. Both places have not previously had boats belonging to the institution. The life-boats possess the usual characteristics of self-righting and self-ejecting the water. The Sheffield boat, on the way to its station was exhibited at the Botanical Gardens in that town on Whit Monday, and its presentation to the institution took place in the presence of some thousands of people. The Rev. Canon Sale, D.D., having offered up an appropriate prayer for the future success of the boat, the Mayoress (Mrs. Laycock) named the boat, amidst the hearty cheers of the spectators. The Mayor afterwards formally presented the boat to the institution. The Leicester life-boat was also shown to the people of Leicester on Whit Tuesday, and was publicly presented, amid great rejoicing, Mrs. T. W. Hodges naming the boat, and W. H. Walker, Esq., presenting it, on behalf of the people of Leicester, to the society. The principal residents and the working classes in both towns have most liberally supported these humane undertakings, which will long remain monuments of their philanthropy, as by means of these two life-boats both towns, though situated far inland, will be aiding directly in the great and national work of saving life from shipwreck. Commodious life-boat houses are in course of erection at Runswick and Gorleston for the reception of the boats. The various railway companies, as usual, readily conveyed the boats, free of charge, to their destinations. The institution has now 168 life-boats under its charge, and their number is gradually increasing.







**THE CHEAP EXCURSIONS** of the BRIGHTON RAILWAY to BRIGHTON, HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, EASTBOURNE, FOLKESTONE, PORTSMOUTH, HAVANT, CHICHESTER, BOSTON, LINDHAMPTON, and ARANDOL, will COMMENCE for the season on SUNDAY, JUNE 3, and be continued each subsequent Sunday. The Excursions to Brighton will run, in addition, every Monday from this date.

**STODARE'S 444th REPRESENTATION.** THEATRE OF MYSTERY, EGYPTIAN HALL.—Colonel Stodare's celebrated Marvellous MAGIC and VENTRILOQUISM, as performed by him, by command, at Windsor Castle, before Her Majesty the Queen, Nov. 31, 1885; and twice before the Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, June 6, 1885, and March 10, 1886. The new sensation of the Marvellous of Magic, the Sphinx, and Stodare's celebrated Indian Basket Trick. Every Evening at Eight; Wednesdays and Saturdays at Three and Eight. Stalls may be secured in advance at the Box-office, Egyptian Hall, open daily from Eleven till Five; and at Mitchell's Old Bond-street. Admission, 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s, 7s, 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, 17s, 18s, 19s, 20s, 21s, 22s, 23s, 24s, 25s, 26s, 27s, 28s, 29s, 30s, 31s, 32s, 33s, 34s, 35s, 36s, 37s, 38s, 39s, 40s, 41s, 42s, 43s, 44s, 45s, 46s, 47s, 48s, 49s, 50s, 51s, 52s, 53s, 54s, 55s, 56s, 57s, 58s, 59s, 60s, 61s, 62s, 63s, 64s, 65s, 66s, 67s, 68s, 69s, 70s, 71s, 72s, 73s, 74s, 75s, 76s, 77s, 78s, 79s, 80s, 81s, 82s, 83s, 84s, 85s, 86s, 87s, 88s, 89s, 90s, 91s, 92s, 93s, 94s, 95s, 96s, 97s, 98s, 99s, 100s, 101s, 102s, 103s, 104s, 105s, 106s, 107s, 108s, 109s, 110s, 111s, 112s, 113s, 114s, 115s, 116s, 117s, 118s, 119s, 120s, 121s, 122s, 123s, 124s, 125s, 126s, 127s, 128s, 129s, 130s, 131s, 132s, 133s, 134s, 135s, 136s, 137s, 138s, 139s, 140s, 141s, 142s, 143s, 144s, 145s, 146s, 147s, 148s, 149s, 150s, 151s, 152s, 153s, 154s, 155s, 156s, 157s, 158s, 159s, 160s, 161s, 162s, 163s, 164s, 165s, 166s, 167s, 168s, 169s, 170s, 171s, 172s, 173s, 174s, 175s, 176s, 177s, 178s, 179s, 180s, 181s, 182s, 183s, 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